

GET INVOLVED!

SAR STUDENT ADVOCACY SEMINARS

A learning-in-service opportunity for students at Network institutions



SCHOLARS AT RISK
NETWORK

Scholars at Risk seeks interest from network institutions to participate in SAR's Student Advocacy Seminars, an opportunity for teams of faculty-supervised students to engage in research and advocacy on behalf of detained, imprisoned or missing scholars, in cooperation with SAR's Scholars-in-Prison project. As part of the project, each participating campus will adopt one or more imprisoned or missing scholars. Participating faculty will arrange for and supervise a small group seminar, independent study, or internship workshop for students from their own institution. The program can be designed for one semester or longer, and for academic, service or writing credit. Students enrolling in the seminar would gain experience in human rights research, standards and mechanisms; persuasive writing (including case dossiers, letters and appeal campaigns); leadership development; advocacy and lobbying; and awareness-building. Students will work to raise awareness of the scholar's situation and conditions in the country or region. Students will also, as appropriate, undertake education and lobbying with local, national and intergovernmental authorities and others capable of intervening on the scholar's behalf. Faculty will supervise student activities and coordinate with SAR staff. Faculty are encouraged, but not required, to build into the seminar a group visit to a local, regional or national capital or other destination during which students could meet with government, intergovernmental and other stakeholders to inform and seek action with regard to the scholar's case.

FACULTY SUPERVISOR'S ROLE:

- Make administrative arrangements for a seminar, independent study, group internship or other format.
- Coordinate with SAR staff on scholar selection, guidelines for advocacy and goals for each specific case.
- Meet regularly with students to discuss the case and coordinate research and advocacy efforts, including supervising any local credit requirements.
- Coordinate with SAR staff an end-of-seminar group visit to an appropriate location, including assisting students in scheduling meetings with suitable lobbying targets and advocacy partners.

STUDENTS' ROLE:

- Register for the program and understand and agree to all commitments and obligations involved.
- Conduct research on one or more scholars, their background and circumstances of detention.
- Set up a monitoring plan for the case (i.e. automated media reviews; regular phone calls to human rights groups and others working on the case; drafting alerts when developments warrant).
- Advocate on the scholar's behalf by writing emails and letters of appeal, hosting on-campus or community events, writing articles for media and approaching local government officials. Participate in any group visit to relevant destination for meetings with relevant stakeholders.
- Prepare an end-of-seminar report on actions taken and recommended next steps.

SCHOLARS AT RISK'S ROLE:

- Coordinate with faculty supervisor on case selection, strategy, background and advocacy materials.
- Connect faculty supervisor and students, as appropriate, with persons involved in the scholar's case.
- Host periodic conference calls or webinars to discuss progress, share any updates on the scholar's case, or answer questions about research and advocacy generally.
- Assist in planning an end-of-seminar group visit to stakeholders. Participate on such trips as practical.

QUESTIONS? Scholars at Risk welcomes inquiries from faculty interested in participating in the Student Advocacy Seminars. For more information, contact SAR staff at +1 212-998-2179 or scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu.