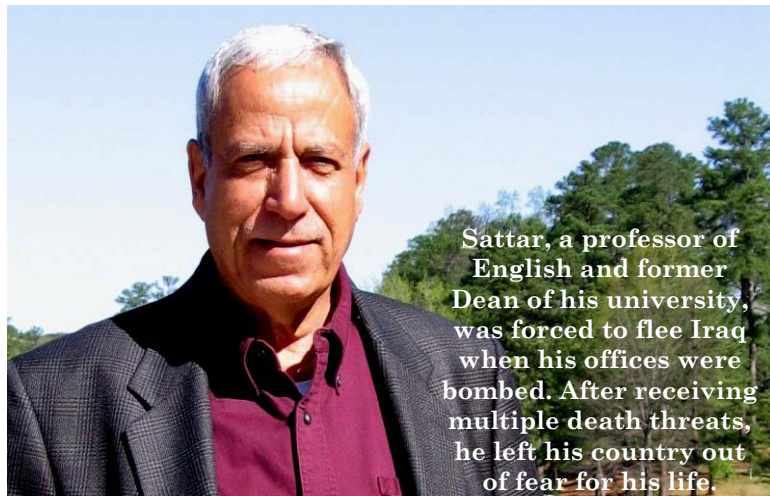


SCHOLARS AT RISK

N E T W O R K

Scholars at Risk is an international network of higher education institutions that saves lives by working with its members to provide sanctuary to professors, lecturers, researchers and other intellectuals who suffer threats in their home country. SAR introduces **Abdul Sattar Jawad**, one scholar in a series featuring the most inspirational scholars who have actualized the SAR mission.



Sattar, a professor of English and former Dean of his university, was forced to flee Iraq when his offices were bombed. After receiving multiple death threats, he left his country out of fear for his life.

Abdul Sattar Jawad

In the early hours of a summer morning in 2005, with the help of a driver who knew which roads to avoid, Professor Sattar Jawad fled Iraq for Jordan. He resigned from his position as Dean of his university, closed his newspaper offices and left his family behind—but he had no other choice. Earlier that year, Sattar’s office had been bombed and he had received multiple death threats from insurgents. A former English department chair and professor who also served as Secretary General of the Iraq Writers’ Union and as Editor of the English-language daily *Baghdad Mirror*, Sattar contacted Scholars at Risk from Jordan. In the fall of 2005, he began his academic journey within the United States at Duke University, where he recently returned to accept a long-term teaching and research position.

“With the continued support and dedication of universities in the SAR network, I am where I am today: I am safe and able to contribute to my academic field.”

-Sattar

As his two-year contract at Duke ended in 2007, Sattar, with the help of SAR, found opportunities to continue his scholarship. He held positions as a visiting scholar in the Department of English at Harvard University and, later, as a visiting professor at University of Mississippi, where he taught undergraduate and honors courses in English and Journalism. In addition to teaching, Sattar, an expert on Shakespeare and T. S. Eliot, has spent the last four years guest lecturing at universities across the country and presenting papers, including one at the Modern Language Association’s annual conference. He has continued working to share his knowledge of the situation in Iraq, including through penning an op-ed published in the *Washington Post*.

Then, in early 2009, as Sattar was looking for opportunities for the 2009-10 year, Duke’s primary representative to SAR called Sattar with good news: Duke wanted Sattar back. Sattar is excited to return to Duke, his first host university outside of Iraq. For the next several years, he will have the opportunity to work with colleagues in Middle East Studies, Journalism, English, Islamic Studies and Communications. He will participate in the founding of a new joint center for the study of the Middle East at Duke and its neighbor, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. And most important, he will be free to continue contributing to scholarship as a professor of Comparative Literature and Journalism—and as a professor from Iraq.