

Network of Concerned Historians	NCH
Message on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Network of Concerned Historians	

Dear colleagues,

Today, 13 October 2015, is the 20th anniversary of the [Network of Concerned Historians](#) (NCH). But this is not a time for celebration. History is as much in danger as it has always been. Here are a few events that occurred after the [21st NCH Annual Report](#) was published online on 14 July 2015:

- * In Syria, archaeologist **Khaled al-Asaad** (1934–2015), director of antiquities in Palmyra for 40 years, was beheaded by Islamic State militants on 18 August 2015.
- * In India, historian and outspoken critic of idol worship **M. M. Kalburgi** (1938–2015) was shot dead by unidentified men at his residence in Dharwad, Karnataka, on 30 August 2015.
- * In Azerbaijan, Leyla and Arif Yunus, both historians and human rights defenders, were sentenced to 8.5 and 7 years' imprisonment respectively on politically motivated charges in Baku on 13 August 2015.
- * In China, Tibetan writer and history teacher [Dolma Kyab](#) was released in Lhasa on 8 October 2015 after completion of a 10.5 years' sentence on charges of endangering state security.
- * In Morocco, historian [Maâti Monjib](#) went on hunger strike on 6 October 2015 to protest against a long campaign of harassment, including an investigation for endangering state security. Sign the petition [here](#).

And in 2013–2014, lamentably, four historians were assassinated: **Jirí Fiedler** (Czech Republic), **Bashar Awad Marouf** (Iraq), **Samuel Malpica Uribe** (Mexico), and **Bohdan Solchanyk** (Ukraine).

I cordially invite you to have a look at the website of the [Network of Concerned Historians](#) (<http://www.concernedhistorians.org>) and to inspect:

- * the [campaigns](#) conducted since 13 October 1995;

- * 21 [NCH Annual Reports](#) about the persecution of historians, history students, history educators and related professions and the censorship of history worldwide;
- * 226 codes of ethics for [historians](#), [archaeologists](#) and [archivists](#) in dozens of countries;
- * 350 [human rights documents](#) from the United Nations and other sources that are useful to historians;
- * 390 [legal cases](#) involving history or historians from around the globe.

Please send us any relevant documents to supplement these collections.

This email was sent to 1760 colleagues on the NCH list. Membership is free. The Network has a group of 24 [patrons](#). Thanks to all of you who showed solidarity with our persecuted colleagues over the last two decades. I sincerely hope that we will meet again for that purpose over the next two.

With best wishes,

Antoon De Baets

Coordinator

[Network of Concerned Historians](#)