

bureaucrats, whose first priority is the well-being of their academic corporations rather than the debate and discussion that, for example, the exemptions in s. 18D of the Racial Discrimination Act so clearly encourage.

The casualties will be not merely academic excellence, and the economic progress and social peace that could follow but, more importantly, hope itself, the only antidote to despair. Those who now presume to manage the limits of free thought may have to reap the bitter fruits of the poisoned seeds they have sown. Once a people falls into despair, they may become dangerously unpredictable.

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From *On Line opinion* - Australia's e-journal of social and political debate, 22 September, 2005.

**Denmark - Letter from Helmuth Nyborg  
requesting help from his colleagues for the  
defense of his academic freedom**

December 3, 2005

Dear Colleague:

At the 2001 meeting of the International Society for Intelligence Research (ISIR), I reported a 4 IQ point advantage for males in intelligence. Upon my return to Denmark I was interviewed by a journalist, and a veritable media storm ensued. The director of my institute publicly stated that he would personally look into the situation. He also said that I made a fool of myself and my institute. Consequently, a "Committee for Proper Research" reprimanded me for what they saw as "premature publication" - i.e. reporting in the media before a full publication in a peer-reviewed journal was at hand. I was called to several meetings with the Dean and the President of the University. The paper was eventually published (See Nyborg, H. (2005) Sex-related differences in general intelligence g, brain size, and social status. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 39, 497-509; available online at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com).)

In 2004 the director wrote to the dean, saying that he could not evaluate my research contribution in his yearly report. In April 2005 he halted my ongoing 30

year longitudinal research project by confiscating the research protocols and informing the Dean he would set up a committee to re-examine my calculations and the method (hierarchical factor analysis) used. As of December 3rd, 2005, I have not been notified who is on the committee.

I am asking if you will write me a letter of support. If so, please address it "To Whom it may Concern", use official paper with your professional affiliation stated, and send it to me at [helmuthnyborg@msn.com](mailto:helmuthnyborg@msn.com) or to my private address: Adslev Skovvej 2, DK-8362, Hoerding, Denmark. Please feel free to comment on any aspect of the academic freedom and scholarship issues raised that you find relevant.

I will then assemble the letters and use them in a defence of my academic freedom.

Yours sincerely,  
Helmuth Nyborg - [www.psy.au.dk/helmuth](http://www.psy.au.dk/helmuth) Professor,  
dr. phil., Department of Psychology, University of Aarhus, Denmark.

**Academic freedom in Gaza and beyond**

*Alexander H. Joffe*

Academic freedom can be defined many ways, but it critically includes the freedom to criticize, based on facts and informed opinion, without fear of official retaliation. It also means that scholars who experience retaliation – not in the form of criticism in return but in tangible terms such as arrest – should be defended.

On Sunday July 3rd Prof. Riad al-Agha, president of the Gaza-based National Institute of Strategic Studies appeared on Palestine TV. There he criticized the Palestinian Authority's Preventative Security Force for refusing to obey orders issued by the PA Interior Ministry. After the program he was promptly arrested by the Preventive Security Force and charged with "incitement." He was released after making a public apology in which he stated that the force was led by "nationalistic figures whom I highly appreciate and respect and who have a known history of struggling [against Israel]."

In itself al-Agha's arrest and recantation is another small but telling picture of free speech and dissent being repressed by the Palestinian Authority. While