

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK of Academies & Scholarly Societies



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The Executive Committee of the International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies (IHRN) is an alliance of more than 90 honorary societies that defends the fundamental rights of scholars worldwide and supports academic institutions under threat. We, the members of the IHRN's Executive Committee, are alarmed by the ongoing crackdown on human rights in Iran, including recent attacks on universities by security and paramilitary forces, along with the arrest of university students engaged in peaceful demonstrations. As protests continue, on university campuses and elsewhere, we are deeply concerned about the further escalation of government repression against students, faculty, and others in the country.

Widespread demonstrations in Iran following the death of 22-year-old Mahsa (Jina) Amini on September 16, who had been arrested by Iran's morality police days earlier, have been marked by serious human rights abuses by security forces. UN and other human rights experts have denounced the use of violence by the Iranian government against peaceful protesters seeking accountability for Amini's death, an end to discrimination against women in Iran, and other reforms. These demonstrations, which have resulted in dozens of deaths and mass detentions, have extended to more than 100 universities throughout the country, with numerous students arrested for their involvement. Hundreds of university professors in Iran have signed a public statement condemning the government's arrest of students for peaceful protests in support of "freedom, justice, and human dignity" and have called attention to the climate of fear and anxiety at Iran's universities as a result of the arrests.

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Security and paramilitary forces have raided several university campuses, including Sharif University of Technology in Tehran. Extensive reporting by the media and human rights organizations indicates that, on October 2, a student protest on the university's campus was violently suppressed by security forces through beatings, tear gas, and metal pellets. Numerous students were injured, along with faculty who sought to ensure their safety, and security forces reportedly arrested dozens of the protesting students.

We call upon Iranian authorities, in line with Iran's obligations as a State party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to cease unnecessary

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use of force in response to popular demonstrations and to ensure the release of students and others who have been arbitrarily detained. We further call upon authorities to uphold the rights to freedom of expression and assembly in the country and to refrain from further attacks on educational institutions.

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