

October 24, 2022

**STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY
WITH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND FACULTY
IN IRAN AND SRI LANKA**

The NDSU Faculty Senate executive leadership calls on the Iranian and Sri Lankan governments to immediately end the repression of and crackdown on students and educators. Further, the executive leadership stands in solidarity with students and educators in Iran and Sri Lanka, as well as in other countries, where authoritarian governments seek to silence them. Upholding both broader democratic values and academic freedom, the executive leadership fully supports the rights of students and faculty in Iran and Sri Lanka to protest and express their grievances peacefully, and condemns in the strongest terms the repressive tactics used against them by the governments of those countries.

Background

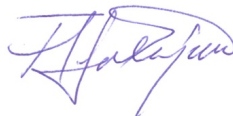
The ongoing governmental crackdown on student protests and retaliation against university students in Iran and Sri Lanka are symptoms of a growing global pattern of abuses and brutality against people in countries led by antidemocratic, authoritarian governments.

Governmental attacks on universal human rights and the repression of the fundamental principles of democratic engagement of individuals in social, civic, and political life reveal the said governments' failure to engage in the reasoned, constructive, and consensus-based resolution of broader societal problems. The ruthless intimidation, arrest, and detainment of university students and faculty who are peacefully exercising their fundamental rights to hold their governments accountable for arbitrary and vicious actions against their own people must be of grave concern to anyone in the global academic community guided by fundamental democratic values and freedoms.

In solidarity,



Anastassiya Andrianova
President



Florin Salajan
Past President



Warren Christensen
President-Elect



Ali Amiri
Parliamentarian

Resources

- “Iran’s Universities Turn into a Major Battleground Amid Anti-Government Protests”: <https://www.rferl.org/a/iran-protests-universities-campuses-battleground/32094848.html> (October 21, 2022)
- “Iran Protests Spark Solidarity Rallies in the U.S. and Europe”: <https://www.npr.org/2022/10/23/1130775833/iran-protests-rallies-us-europe> (October 23, 2022)
- “Sri Lanka: Protesters Must Not Be Detained Under the Draconian Anti-terror Law”: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/08/sri-lanka-protesters-must-not-be-detained-under-the-draconian-anti-terror-law/> (August 22, 2022)
- “Power of Citizen Mobilization”: <https://carnegieendowment.org/2022/06/30/sri-lanka-s-crisis-and-power-of-citizen-mobilization-pub-87416> (June 30, 2022)