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Academics concerned about the assault on Iranian Universities

We the undersigned, academics and administrators of universities around the world express our deep concern about the deteriorating situation of universities in Iran, particularly in the aftermath of the recent Presidential elections. All signs indicate that the authorities are engaged in a major crackdown on Iranian universities and intend to impose yet more infringements on academic freedoms.

We have reasons to believe that faculty and students are in grave danger. Student dormitories have been attacked, and several faculty members including the former President of Tehran University, Dr. Mohammad Maleki have been imprisoned. Fear is looming on Iranian campuses that a new *cultural revolution* is being planned which will have disastrous consequences similar to the first one that took place in the spring of 1980. Such a move would purge thousands of professors and students who stand in opposition to the regime's repressive policies, and further deplete Iranian universities of academic standards and scholarly pursuits.

There are new calls for the "revision of Humanities and Social Sciences" under the auspices of clerics; departments are forced to issue fake degrees to unqualified individuals linked to influential authorities; our colleagues are harassed by a multitude of security and intelligence units operating on campuses, and students continue to be subjected to a repressive system of black-listing, receiving "star" points for their social activities, leading to their expulsion.

We strongly condemn the political interferences in academia, and demand that assaults against the sanctity of the country's universities, faculty and students be stopped immediately and unconditionally.

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