

A Resolution in Solidarity with Iranians Protesting the Killing Of Mahsa Amini, and Demanding that UCLA Stand with Iranian Students

WHEREAS, on September 13, 2022, the morality police of Iran arrested Mahsa Amini for wearing an “improper headscarf.”¹

WHEREAS, police reportedly tortured Mahsa Amini in the police van after her arrest, tortured her at the police station for at least half an hour, then struck Ms. Amini on the head.²

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2022, Mahsa Amini fell into a coma at a so-called “re-education center” in police custody, and died in the hospital.³

WHEREAS, thousands of Iranians bravely protest across Iran to demand accountability and an end to violence and discrimination against women, even though the lives of at least seventy-five protestors have been tragically lost, including a sixteen-year-old girl.⁴

WHEREAS, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran engages in egregious measures against Iranian civilians as they exercise their human rights, including the large-scale use of violent force and military threats, the arbitrary arrest of over twelve hundred protestors and several journalists, cutting access to Internet communications, and calling on supporters to expose the identities of protestors.⁵

WHEREAS, Iran’s security forces regularly target university students with violence, including the entrapment and shooting of students at the Sharif University of Technology on October 2, 2022.⁶

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2022, United Nations experts condemned Iran’s “sustained repression and systemic discrimination against women,” including the “discriminatory dress codes that deprive women of bodily autonomy and the freedoms of opinion, expression and belief.”⁷

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<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/09/iran-un-experts-demand-accountability-death-mahsa-amini-call-end-violence>

² <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/mahsa-amini-iran-protests-family-cousin-erfan-mortezaei-speaks-out-torture/>

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<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/09/iran-un-experts-demand-accountability-death-mahsa-amini-call-end-violence>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ <https://www.cnn.com/2022/09/24/middleeast/mahsa-amini-death-iran-internet-un-investigation-intl-hnk/index.html>

⁶ https://twitter.com/IranIntl_En/status/1576667970717323266?s=20&t=5cu8oaZ2N1Wq5H9UluZ9hg

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<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/09/iran-un-experts-demand-accountability-death-mahsa-amini-call-end-violence>

WHEREAS, Iranian students must confront turmoil in their homeland, seeing their own people killed by Iranian authorities, and losing communication with their loved ones in Iran while pursuing UCLA’s rigorous academics and college life.⁸

WHEREAS, on September 26, 2022, the Iranian Student Group at UCLA issued a letter to Chancellor Block urging UCLA to stand in solidarity with Iranian students, to conduct mass outreach regarding the tragedy facing Iranians, to share resources for those impacted by the crisis, and to demonstrate its support by lighting up Royce Hall in green, white, and red, the colors of the Iranian flag.⁹

WHEREAS, UCLA Draft Policy 864: Lighting of Royce Hall and Powell Library stipulates that the Undergraduate Student Association and Registered Campus Organizations may request special lighting on the occasion of “significant campus, city, state and national events [...] that align with UCLA priorities and values.”¹⁰

WHEREAS, on October 3, 2022, President Biden published a statement condemning the “violent crackdown on peaceful protestors in Iran, including students and women, who are demanding their equal rights and basic human dignity,” and declared that the United States “stands with Iranian women and all the citizens of Iran who are inspiring the world with their bravery.”¹¹

WHEREAS, from September 30 to October 2, 2022, Los Angeles City Hall and the Sixth Street Bridge were lit up in green, white, and red — the colors of the Iranian national flag — in solidarity with the women of Iran fighting for their freedom and human rights.^{12 13}

WHEREAS, from September 29 to October 2, 2022, Beverly Hills City Hall was lit up in green, white, and red in solidarity with the women of Iran fighting for their freedom and human rights.¹⁴

WHEREAS, on October 1, 2022, California State Capitol was lit up in green, white, and red to participate in a Global Day of Solidarity for Iran.

⁸ Iranian Student Group letter to Chancellor Block, 9/26/2022, <https://www.instagram.com/p/Ci-610CP1sC/>

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ <http://www.adminpolicies.ucla.edu/pdf/864-1-DRAFT-2022-09-07.pdf>

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<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/10/03/statement-by-president-biden-on-the-violent-crackdown-in-iran/>

¹² <https://abc7.com/downtown-los-angeles-iran-protests-mahsa-amini-iranian-women/12286873/>

¹³ <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=22-1145>

¹⁴ <https://www.beverlyhills.org/cbhfiles/storage/files/48314646810054999/Mahsalighting92722.pdf>

WHEREAS, demonstrations following the death of Mahsa Amini erupted across the United States, including in Chicago, Boston, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and cities internationally.^{15 16}

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2022, over one hundred people gathered in Bruin Plaza for a candlelight vigil organized by the Iranian Student Group at UCLA, remembering the life of Mahsa Amini and amplifying the voice of Iranians back home.¹⁷

WHEREAS, UCLA recognizes itself as an institution with global impact, and commits itself to promoting diversity, inclusivity, freedom of expression, and equity.¹⁸

WHEREAS, Iranian students are an integral part of the UCLA community, and the Iranian contribution to Westwood is so great that the region is lovingly referred to as “Tehrangeles.”¹⁹

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Student Association Council stands in solidarity with the Iranian community at UCLA and abroad, and that the fight for fundamental rights must always go on.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Student Association Council strongly condemns, and will never tolerate, discrimination on the basis of gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or religious belief.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Student Association Council urges the UCLA Administration to send a mass email to all students, faculty, staff, and administrators that (1) acknowledges the situation in Iran and takes a stance of solidarity with Iranians in the UCLA community, (2) educates the campus community on the situation in Iran, (3) provides resources to those affected by these events and how members of the community can support the fight for fundamental rights, and (4) publicly announces its alignment with the women and protestors in Iran fighting for their basic human rights.

¹⁵ <https://www.cnn.com/2022/09/24/us/iranian-american-protest-us-mahsa-amini>

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<https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/socal-joined-worldwide-weekend-protests-following-womans-death-in-iran/2992744/>

¹⁷ <https://dailybruin.com/2022/09/25/iranian-student-group-organizes-vigil-in-remembrance-of-mahsa-amini>

¹⁸ <https://www.ucla.edu/about/mission-and-values>

¹⁹ <https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-19751370>

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Student Association Council urges the UCLA Administration to expeditiously offer additional CAPS counseling services for Iranian students in light of this unfolding tragedy.

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Student Association Council declares the death of Mahsa Amini and subsequent demonstrations to be a significant campus, city, state, and national event; and recognizes the fight for women's fundamental rights and free speech to be unambiguously aligned with UCLA priorities and values; thus demanding that the UCLA Administration light up Royce Hall in consultation with the Iranian student community.