

The Iranian community at Tech currently has 57 Graduate students (mostly on PhD programs), and post-doc researchers.

We are young men and women who have continuously contributed on campus through research projects, teaching labs or courses, social activities, multi-cultural events, and sustainability improvements.

And although we know it is challenging, we are here to urge Michigan tech to do more to recognize the human rights demonstrations in Iran following the death of Mahsa Amini which occurred 40 days ago.

Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman who was arrested on September 13th in Tehran by the Guidance Patrol, also known as the Morality Police, for not covering her hair properly in public. She reportedly went into a coma hours after her arrest. Her family and journalists reported she died after being beaten by the police. Iranian citizens started a movement against the human rights abuses, especially women rights abuses, by the current IRI government. The citizens have been inspired by the courage of young female students, who have been joined by oil workers unions, and many other grassroots supporters.

They are protesting against the IRI regime, and they want regime change. This could be a revolution happening in IRAN.

In an attempt to suppress political dissidents, the IRI government has

- shut down the internet
- killed and arrested many innocent children and students in streets, universities, and even high schools.
- They have committed massacres in two major cities Zahedan and Sanandaj.
- The riot police attacked students on the Sharif and Elmosanat university campuses,
- killed and arrested many many students which we have enough evidence that many of them are getting tortured and raped in IRI prisons.
- Just today have increased the military presence and attempted to prevent further demonstrations with force.

Many students in our Michigan Tech community graduated from these two universities. This is something that we cannot even imagine any educational institution would let happen to its students, ever.

Many of us follow the news of the protests at every moment and hear about the lethal suppression of young women and men on the streets, which leaves us in pain. But we recognize that this is not a time for grief, rather action.

Due to limited internet access, in the past 4 weeks, students have not been able to talk to their families and friends. Members of the IRC on Campus are struggling and having a hard time concentrating on their work because it is constantly on our mind. Our family members and our

friends are in danger. Unfortunately, Iran's protests have not been covered properly by the worldwide news and there is little knowledge about this matter, internationally, which weakens the liberties of people and strengthens authoritarian regimes everywhere.

During these unpleasant and stressful days, we are reaching out for help when the mental health of Iranian members of the Michigan Tech family is at risk. We appreciate your awareness and understanding.

We have a several specific requests:

1. We would appreciate it if the University Senate raises awareness of the situation within the Tech community, and the statement does not need to be political in nature, but extends support to Iranian Community members that might be struggling during the civil unrest.
2. As the representative of the Iranian community, we are requesting more support for prospective students joining MTU. A clear example of additional support includes allowing grace periods for applicants to MS & PHD programs at Tech. They could not set up online meetings with professors to discuss their research interests and future opportunities. Many applications have been filtered by the government including zoom, teams and google. There is also a chance to miss application deadlines.
3. As student visas expire with graduation from MTU, many of our Iranian community members are faced with returning to Iran during the Civil Unrest, and likely become targets of the current regime. We would like to work with Career Services to develop stronger support with companies to identify pathways for Work Visas, internships, and Co-ops, that could keep our MTU students and Alumni safe and productive in their field of expertise.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your time and service on the University Senate. We recognize that these are not comfortable topics to think about or discuss. And so, our students are doing their best to process and navigate the trauma on their own. Any formal or informal support to our Iranian community would be greatly appreciated at this time.