

January 20, 2026

## Standing with the People of Iran

The UTM Middle Eastern Student Association and the University of Toronto Mississauga Students' Union stand in solidarity with all those affected by the ongoing situation in Iran. Since late December 2025, people across Iran have taken to the streets to express their frustrations with economic hardship and systemic repression. What began as protests against economic collapse has grown into one of the largest nationwide movements in years.

Iranian security forces have responded with severe repression, including mass arrests, the use of live ammunition against civilians, and a widespread internet blackout aimed at silencing voices and suppressing communication to the outside world. Human rights groups and international media report thousands of deaths, with many more injured or detained without due process.

The UTMSU fundamentally rejects Western imperialism and foreign intervention that undermines the sovereignty of the people, and we stand in solidarity with students, working class, and all Iranians who are courageously advocating for their right to self-determination. A society cannot thrive when its citizens are denied freedom of expression, human rights, access to information, and the right to peaceful protests.

Many Iranian students in our community are currently unable to reach their families back home. For students far from home, this silence is frightening. International reporting shows that Iranians abroad are experiencing fear, anxiety, and emotional distress from not knowing if their families are safe. We also call upon the University to approve special consideration requests for affected students.

We urge our student community to support advocacy for those impacted by the political violence in Iran. Awareness begins with the amplification of oppressed voices. Amplify independent human rights reporting, sign petitions to end the violence, and join community initiatives to support the people of Iran.