

# Student Protest in Iran



December 2008

## Despite martial law in Tehran University, thousands partake in protests

**Fearing student protests, the mullahs' Supreme Leader cancels a scheduled session at the Science and Industry University**

**A number of students have been arrested**

NCRI - The suppressive State Security Forces (SSF) –mullahs' suppressive police– and the mullah regime's intelligence agents have been stationed since Sunday morning, December 7, 2008, around all entrances to Tehran University as well as the surrounding streets, and an undeclared martial law has been imposed. Scores of SSF agents were keeping watch at street corners leading to Tehran University on Sunday. The extent of the security watch by the regime's agents went beyond Taleqani, Qods, Enqelab avenues and covered a swath of roads and streets starting from Enqelab Square to Shirazi Avenue.

Several days ago, the regime's Supreme National Security Council, which is in a state of panic and fear due to the possibility of university student protests and demonstrations across Iran, issued an order to the regime's SSF and other security agencies banning commemoration of "Student Day" and all forms of university gatherings, and ordered the regime's suppressive forces to prevent at any cost student gatherings on Sunday in Tehran University.

Suppressive SSF forces clashed with students on Saturday night. Agents from the Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS) raided the homes of several student activists studying at Tehran University, conducted searches, took possession of belongings, and arrested the students. Last night, as well, three other student activists at Tehran University were arrested by the university's security as they were leaving the premises and handed over to the regime's plain-clothes agents stationed outside the campus.

The regime had also intended to organize a gathering of 5,000 Bassij Force agents in front of Tehran University in order to confront protests organized by freedom-loving students. However, this morning the regime only managed to muster 150 of its MOIS agents and Bassij Force, transporting them by buses from other towns to Tehran University. Based on reports obtained from Resistance sources inside Iran, these forces were not able to confront the wave of anti-regime student protests.

The regime's SSF agents were barring dissident students from entry to the University's premises. By establishing blocks and security card systems, they also prevented students from other universities from entering Tehran University. Security forces were also openly threatening people who wanted to



join the university protests with arrest and imprisonment.

Despite all the pressure and threats from the suppressive forces, student protests eventually gained momentum with the thunderous roars of "Death to Dictator," "Students Die, But Surrender They Shall Not," and "We are fighters, men and women, Fight us and we will fight" encompassing the campus atmosphere. The regime's Special Anti-protest Units surrounded the university with dozens of vehicles and started to clash with students.

The SSF also entered the scene and began to beat and arrest some of the protestors. The students also collectively sang the popular "My Student Companion," and the banned national anthem "Hail Iran, Land of Jewels," and continued to march on. Seeking to prevent the joining of the people with university protests, the regime's suppressive forces had stationed a large number of buses in front of Tehran University separating the two. The people could only hear the students' shouts and slogans.

An undeclared martial law also took effect at Tehran University at 8 A.M. Colonel Zamani, in charge of suppressing worker protests, and Colonel Motahari, both of whom are well-known criminal security agents, were pacing around Tehran University with police radios, cell phones and other equipment in hand, commanding the numerous SSF agents there. Plain-clothes agents and SSF forces in Kargar, 12-Farvardin, FakhR Razi, and 16-Azar avenues threatened and arrested people. MOIS agents resorted to arresting those with cameras or cell phones capable of taking pictures, putting hand cuffs on them and taking them away from the scene.

Hundreds of university students angrily protesting against the regime's martial law in Tehran University, marched toward the 16-Azar entrance of the University, and after dismantling

the gate, enabled other students to enter the campus. At that point, students shouted other chants, some of which included, "Guns, Tanks, Bassiji: No Longer Effective," "Nation, Why the Silence? Iran Has Turned into Palestine," "Mahmoud Ahmadinejad: Source of Corruption and Discrimination," and "Free Imprisoned Students."

Student protestors then marched toward the holding place of three of their detained classmates, seeking to free them. They threatened that unless the students were freed, they would break the doors and free them by force. Heeding the warning and fearful of a confrontation, several minutes later, security agents released the three detained students. In addition to the widespread protests in Tehran University and simultaneous to them, courageous students at universities in other cities such as Isfahan, Tabriz, Hamedan, Babel and Babelsar, Orumieh, Qazvin, Shiraz, Ilam, Birjand, Sanandaj, and Bo-Ali Sina University in Hamedan, commemorated "Student Day" and turned into scenes of protest against the suppressive policies and measures of the religious fascism ruling Iran.

The regime's officials, sensing unease and extreme trepidation in the face of increasing acts of protest, avoided appearing at previously scheduled sessions for "Student Day" in various universities. The mullahs' Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei, who was scheduled to appear at the Science and Industry University, later cancelled. The mullahs' former President, Mohammad Khatamei, who had announced his intentions to speak at Tehran University on Sunday, also cancelled the meeting after reports of widespread campus protests against the regime.

Secretariat of the National Council of Resistance of Iran  
December 7, 2008

## Iran: Students chanting 'Death to Dictator' demonstrated against Khamenei

### Maryam Rajavi described the student demonstrations as a reflection of the people's hatred for the Velayat-e Faqih rule

NCRI - On the anniversary of 16th Azar (December 6, Student Day), students held anti-government gatherings throughout the nation. Students of Iranian higher education schools and universities chanted, "Death to Dictator," "Ali Khamenei, Iran's Pinochet, Iran will not be another Chili," and "The victory is close, death to ruling hypocrites government."

Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the Iranian Resistance, describe the widespread student demonstrations as an advent of the Iranian people's hatred for the Velayat-e Faqih (absolute clerical supremacy) and a national will for a democratic change in Iran. She said that the Iranian students showed that the people and their long lasting resistance is prepared to defeat the ruling religious fascism attempts and plots. They will not cease their endeavors until the establishment of a free and democratic Iran.

Tehran's universities were encompassed by widespread student protests and forced the mullahs' regime to impose an undeclared martial Law. In fear of such protests, Ali Khamenei, mullahs' supreme leader, cancelled his pre-scheduled speech in Science and Industry University of Tehran.

Shortly before that, Mohammad Khatamei, former Iranian president had also cancelled an speech planed for December 7 in fear of students anger.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Mullahs' criminal president had no plan to appear before the student crowds. He feared a rerun of two years ago student demonstrations. Students at Polytechnic University (Amirkabir) burned his pictures before his eyes on December 2006.

Two days after the Student Day, the schools' atmosphere is still volatile. Students have planned to hold further protest gatherings in Tehran, Shiraz, Hamedan, Arak, Babolsar,



Birjand, and Bandar Abbas universities against suppressive measures imposed by the ruling clerics in the days to come.

Secretariat of the National Council of Resistance of Iran  
December 8, 2008





## Students Rally For Democracy In Iran

### Thousands Decry Hard-Line Rulers In Closely Watched Annual Protest Event In Tehran

(CBS) Hundreds of students from different colleges gathered Sunday at Tehran University to protest against injustice and the dictatorship which runs their country and their lives.

The gathering marked "Students' Day," a commemoration of the day about 50 years ago when the Shah's police attacked students.

Iranian students inside the Islamic Republic and abroad have long used the occasion to call for political freedom and voice their struggle against dictators - first the Western-backed Shah, and now the hard-line Islamic regime led by Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Despite a heavy presence of police and security forces, students inside the university Sunday managed to break down a barricaded gate and let others flood into the grounds.

Any rally or gathering at the universities has to be authorized by the government,

and there are strict restrictions for entering Tehran University.

At one point, a number of students were detained by university security guards, but demonstrators demanded their release. After talks between the two sides they were freed to rejoin their fellow students.

In recent years several members of the students' movement have been arrested on security related charges and sentenced to long prison terms, exiled, or expelled from Iran's universities.

At this rally, like others in the past, the students called for basic democratic rights including freedom of speech, human rights and justice. A female student talked about "gender apartheid" in the country's universities.

Students at the rally, which lasted about three hours, carried signs bearing several slogans. One read: "Democracy in Iran - International Peace".

As they marched toward the university gates, students chanted slogans against dictatorship, the behavior of the police, and against Ahmadinejad.

Toward the end of the rally, a group of students started directing their chants against former President Seyed Mohammad Khatami.

Pro-government students held a simultaneous rally in support of Ahmadinejad on Sunday, holding up his picture along with images of Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Khamenei.

It has become tradition for top officials to meet with students on Dec. 6-7 each year in honor of Students' Day, but Ahmadinejad chose not to visit any universities this year.

It had been announced that Khamenei would visit Al-m-o Sanat University, where Ahmadinejad studied and then taught, on the 6th. That event was cancelled without any official explanation.



## Iran: Mullahs' police fired tear gas in Boali University

Sunday, 07 December 2008

NCRI – On the anniversary of Student Day, the State Security Forces (SSF) --mullahs' suppressive police-- fired tear gas into the crowd of students at Boali Sina University in the western city of Hamedan.

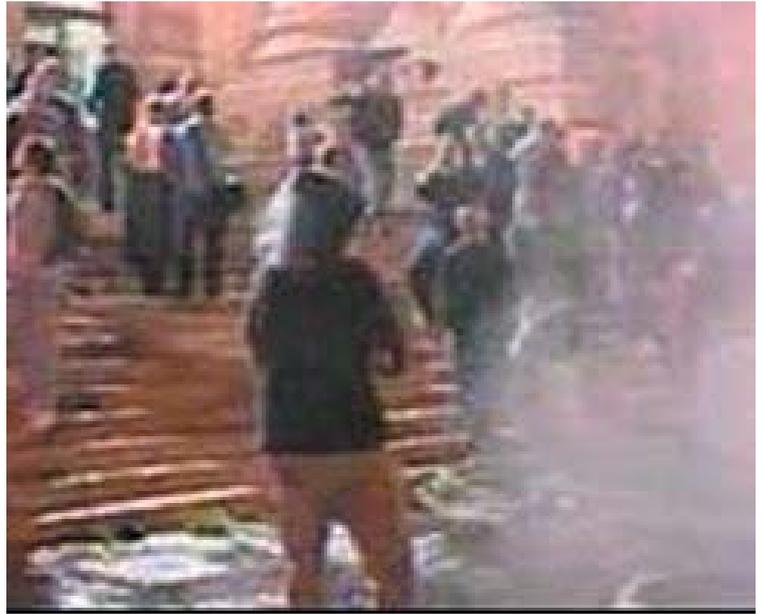
SSF agents tried to force students out of Humanities College by using tear gas. But they met stiff resistance from the students chanting slogans and singing songs related to past student protests.

SSF units were assigned to stop student gatherings from taking place outside the college.

Last year, the Student Day was marked on December 9, Iranian students in universities across Iran staged demonstrations, chanting anti-government slogans and calling for the release of the detained students.

At Tehran University, the protesters chanted slogans against Ahmadinejad and carried banners calling for the release of three fellow students who have been held since May, the state-run media such as Fars news agency and IRNA reported.

"The students marched on the gate and damaged it... The students chanted slogans and carried protesting placards," IRNA reported. According to the eyewitnesses, SSF agents had initially shut the main gate in to prevent large numbers gathering for the protest, but the students broke the gate so that others could enter.



"Ahmadi-Pinochet, Iran will not become Chile!", "Death to dictator," "Free all political prisoners," "University is wide awake," "University is the last barricade," "Students die but will not be humiliated," "Mr. President the student movement will stand until the end", chanted the students.

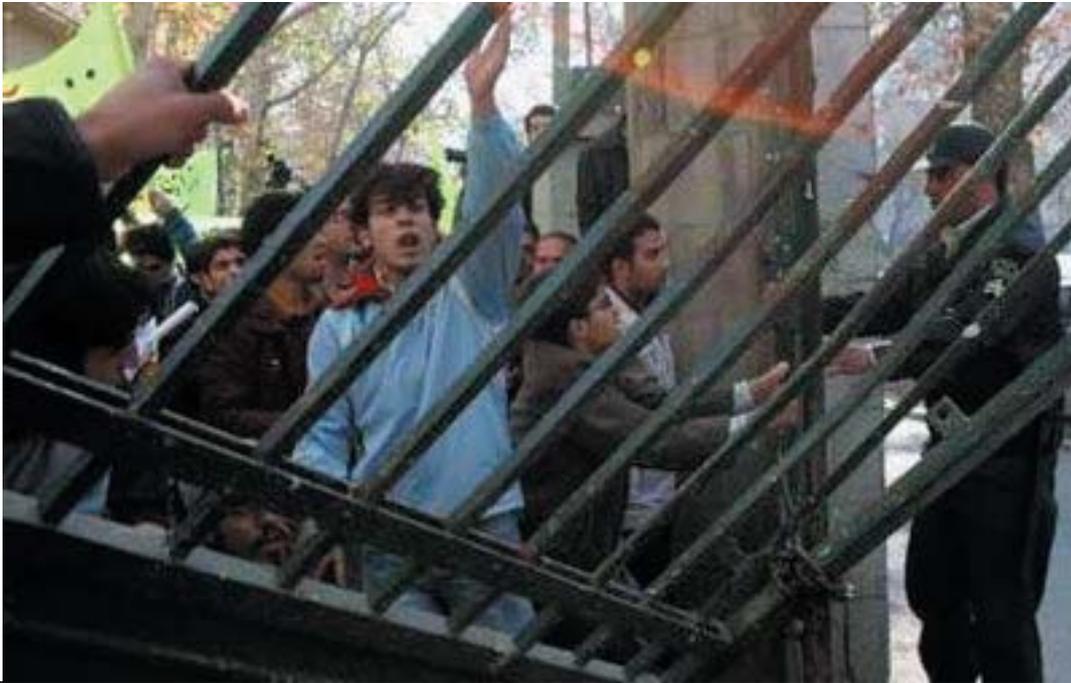


“Threats of summons and arrest will not silence us”,



A student holds a placard reading: "Threats of summons and arrest will not silence us", during a student day demonstration inside Tehran University December 7, 2008. REUTERS/Stringer (IRAN)

## Students tear down a gate during a student day demonstration inside Tehran University December 7, 2008



Iranian students shout slogans during a protest at Tehran University in the Iranian capital

