



This statement was written by an Iranian Griffith University student and is published here by the SRC Board at their request.

The SRC stands with the people of Iran in their fight for freedom, not their government nor their invaders.

Statement:

In 2026, Iran stands at the intersection of internal unrest and external conflict.

Since January 2026, the scale of violence inside Iran has been staggering. At least 36,500 people were reportedly killed during the uprising, many on January 8 and 9 alone, with the true toll believed to be far higher. Victims included children, students and the elderly, illustrating the indiscriminate nature of the crackdown. Reports describe hospitals turning into sites of repression, where injured protesters risked detention or worse, while a 20-day internet blackout obscured the extent of the violence. Even mourning became controlled, as families struggled to recover bodies and faced restrictions on funerals.

At the same time, Iran's economic crisis has deepened. Food inflation has surged above 113%, with cooking oil prices rising by up to 220% and bread by 140%, while wages increased only 20–30%. Many families now rely on savings or loans simply to afford basic necessities, and some have begun selling personal belongings to survive.

Externally, tensions between Iran, Israel and the United States have intensified, with airstrikes damaging nearly 40,000 residential units in Tehran Province alone. Although Donald Trump declared, "When we are finished, take over your government... this will be probably your only chance for generations," Iran continues to face profound internal struggles that cannot be resolved through external intervention alone.

Meanwhile, the decision of Iranian footballers seeking refuge in Australia highlights a broader reality: for many, leaving the country has become a matter of safety, not choice. Together, these crises reveal a nation enduring both internal repression and external conflict, demanding far greater global attention, including from institutions such as Griffith University.

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