

VICE PRESIDENTS

February 3, 2026

HE Amir-Saeid Irvani
Permanent Representative of Iran to the United Nations
622 Third Ave., 34th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ambassador:

On behalf of the 1.8 million members of the AFT, I am writing to you to express our alarm and condemnation over the lethal violence against peaceful protesters in Iran over the past several weeks.

We urge your government to immediately cease all unlawful use of force, restore internet access and fully comply with Iran's obligations under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is a party.

As so many people have witnessed, your government has carried out a horrifying campaign of repression. Since late December 2025, state security forces have systematically employed increasingly lethal force—including rifles and shotguns loaded with metal pellets deliberately aimed at heads and torsos—against overwhelmingly peaceful protesters and bystanders.

This has resulted in a catastrophic loss of life, with reports indicating a death toll reaching into the thousands. The imposition of a nationwide internet shutdown appears designed to conceal these atrocities, in direct contravention of the United Nations guarantees of freedom of expression and the sanctity of human life. As a signatory to U.N. protocols, Iran is legally bound to respect and ensure these rights.

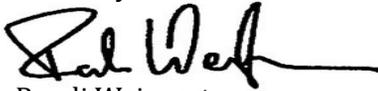
We find deeply troubling the number of innocent people arbitrarily arrested and detained in direct contravention to the U.N.'s protocols clearly laid out in the UDHR and the ICCPR. Among them is labor leader Abdollah Rezaei, a retired educator and teacher union leader. He is one of dozens of labor activists jailed without due process. We join our teacher union colleagues in Iran demanding the immediate release of all imprisoned labor activists.

The international community is watching. The path forward must be one of de-escalation, accountability and respect for the will and rights of the Iranian people.

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We urge you to convey this message to authorities in Tehran, to take immediate steps to ensure that the reported pause in the bloodshed is permanent and, moving forward, to observe the U.N.'s guaranteed rights of freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of assembly, and life, liberty and security for all citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randi Weingarten", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Randi Weingarten
President

RW : cs opeiu#2 afl-cio

cc: Education International
Public Services International