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CORRESPONDENCE | 01 November 2022

## Iran: amplify voices of persecuted academics

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People in Iran are under attack, our fellow academics among them (see [go.nature.com/3gnoc9w](https://go.nature.com/3gnoc9w)). In recent weeks, the Islamic Republic has orchestrated several violent assaults against Iranian universities (see [Nature 610, 430; 2022](#)). We are among the more than 500 scholars who have signed an open letter condemning these attacks and the brutal oppression of academics by the government (see <https://supportiranianacademics.org>). We demand the immediate release of all activists, including students, from the prisons of the Islamic Republic. We call on the international scientific community to amplify the voices of those in Iran, and to recognize the extraordinary challenges faced by Iranian scholars.

In addition to violence and harassment, students face disrupted Internet access, economic uncertainty and unwillingness of the universities to perform administrative duties. As such, we urge scientific institutions to show flexibility in their admissions processes for Iranians, ease financial burdens through application-fee waivers and scholarships, and provide open access to academic resources.

Education, the liberty to pursue scientific enquiry and freedom of expression are basic human rights. Wherever scholars are under attack, we, as a scientific community, have a duty to stand with our colleagues and defend those rights.

*Nature* **611**, 33 (2022)

doi: <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-022-03515-9>

### COMPETING INTERESTS

The authors declare no competing interests.