



## Message of the president of Imam Hossein University to professors and students in American and European universities

In the Name of God

**Greetings to all the freedom-loving, peace-seeking, and valiant professors and students of the universities of the United States of America and Europe.**

The history of the movements for justice against arrogant powers is indebted to the university environment and the academic community. After World War II, France, Italy, Germany, and the United States of America witnessed extensive, prolonged, and bloody demonstrations organised by academics – that is, the free-spirited students and professors.

In the academic history of Iran too, the event of the 16<sup>th</sup> of Azar 1332 (December 7, 1953) following the American-British coup d'état on the 28<sup>th</sup> of Mordad 1332 (August 19, 1953) against the then-nationalist government, which led to the tragic killing of three protesting students opposing the presence of Richard Nixon, the then-Vice President of the United States, at the University of Tehran, is considered a pivotal point in the history of collegiate struggles.

Throughout these years, opposition to warmongering and violence committed by major powers against oppressed nations, the proliferation of nuclear weapons and those of mass destruction, the instigation of uprisings and coups against anti-imperialist popular governments around the world, or protesting discriminatory laws against women, people of color, and racial, ethnic, and even environmental degradation due to the expansion of polluting industries have been the primary areas of concern of the truth-seeking struggles waged by young students and their professors.

Since the 1980s to the first two decades of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, collegiate activism saw a decline. During this period, even the unfortunate incidents and circumstances that befell humanity could not breathe new life into it. However, the modern Western abuse of concepts such as human rights, democracy, human dignity, and ignoring the right of nations to self-determination as well as the actions of the oppressive Western governments contrary to these principles, has sparked renewed criticism within universities and academic circles around the world.

The support and backing of the officials of some Western governments for Israel's siege, assault, and genocide in Gaza in addition to the systematic racism and discrimination in the West Bank, have compelled many human rights activists to action, refusing to be content with the political inertia and hypocritical condemnations of these governments towards the Israeli regime.

A new chapter of student protest movements is now unfolding. The cries for freedom and justice emanating from non-Muslim students and faculty in defense of the oppressed Muslim nation of Palestine, and their denouncement of Zionist racism, evoke memories of the great popular and student movements of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It resonates as an echo of the oppressed world's front against global hegemonic forces.

The courage and sacrifices of the Palestinians and the perseverance and fortitude demonstrated by the women and children amidst the ruins of the Gaza Strip in defending their homeland have once again awakened the human conscience.

At this critical juncture, a weighty responsibility rests upon the shoulders of university administrators, faculty members, professors, and students to condemn the Zionist genocide and foster public enlightenment on this issue.



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So far, over 35,000 Palestinians, predominantly women and children, have been killed as a result of Israel's brutal military aggressions, supported and backed by the United States and some European governments. Unfortunately, not only have the conventional mechanisms of international law and actions of international organisations failed to halt these crimes, but Israel has also refused the mediation efforts of numerous countries to resolve this crisis.

In such circumstances, the active and persistent involvement of academic communities, particularly professors and students from the US and European universities in denouncing Israel's barbaric actions and the support provided by some Western governments, will significantly impact efforts to get through this crisis. Specifically, if university settings, as vanguards of movements, can disrupt the prevailing global silence and irresponsibility regarding these atrocities, other movements will naturally rally behind this widespread call for justice and humanity.

While some American politicians advocate for criminalising solidarity with Palestinians and cancelling student visas and expelling foreign students who protest against Israel's war crimes, it is time for professors and students to amplify the voices of the oppressed Palestinian women and children. These collegiate movements should compel people worldwide to mobilise and protest on behalf of those deprived of even the most basic human rights and necessities for survival.

In conclusion, as the President of Imam Hossein University, I announce that this university is ready to offer fully funded scholarships to all the students who have been expelled or suspended from their universities in the United States, Canada, and European countries due to the unjust and unfair policies of their government officials. These scholarships will be provided through the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

**In hopes of achieving global peace and justice,  
Professor Mohammad-Reza Hasani Ahangar,  
President of Imam Hossein University,  
Islamic Republic of Iran  
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