

António Guterres
Secretary General
United Nations
405 East 42nd Street
New York NY 10017
United States of America
sgcentral@un.org

25 February 2022

Dear Secretary General

Support teachers' strikes and protests in Iran

The Australian Union movement is extremely concerned that the Iranian Government has not yet responded to the demands of a series of nationwide protests and strikes by teachers and retirees over the past four months in more than two hundred cities. Iranian teachers are calling for higher salaries, pension reform and the payment of outstanding wages. Instead, the Government continues to arrest, repress and imprison teachers. We are alarmed at the recent reports of security forces repressing a protest in the city of Karaj on 19 February and arresting 15 teachers.

We support the teachers' strikes and protests and support their demands as follows:

1. Stop the repression, arrests and dismissal of teachers and union activists
2. Release the teachers who are in prison
3. Implement the Teacher Ranking and Equalisation Bill to achieve their goals
4. Permanently hire the contract teachers in educational services
5. Recognise the teachers' right to hold protests without repression, arrest or intimidation.

We call for immediate action by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN Human Rights Council and relevant Special Rapporteurs and international human rights organisations to address the situation of the teachers in Iran.

Yours sincerely



Michele O'Neil
ACTU President