

English

Statement No. 80 – SHAMA

A Message to the Great People of Iran, and to Students and Pupils

Time is short — let us act wisely.
Political opportunities do not repeat themselves.
If we remain inactive, failure becomes certain.

For many months prior to the tragic events of December, repeated warnings were issued regarding structural repression, the character of leadership, and the risks of escalation. Due to limited media access and generational divides, these cautions did not receive sufficient attention. Yet the persistence of student activism today reflects both the revival of student civic identity and its inseparable connection to the broader national movement.

We respectfully submit the following reflections:

1. Although many student protests begin with professional or academic grievances, the broader national context gives them deeper political significance. Escalation toward confrontation remains a real risk if prudence is not exercised.
2. Past warnings emphasized that daily street confrontations risked reaching a point of unavoidable violent repression. A shift toward organized, non-violent, nationwide civic action was therefore recommended.
3. University environments, when closed and tightly controlled, can unfortunately become more vulnerable to concentrated repression.
4. A core dilemma persists: civic movements require continuity, yet open street confrontation gives authorities operational advantage. For this reason, a strategic transition toward peaceful civil resistance, disciplined coordination, and nationwide solidarity has been proposed as a safer and more effective path.
5. Reports of labor actions in certain sectors demonstrate that broad, coordinated civic engagement may reduce direct confrontation while increasing collective leverage.
6. Universities symbolize knowledge, human values, and national culture. Students must remain vigilant against attempts by any group to distort or exploit their movement for partisan agendas.
7. The risk of continued judicial or administrative repression underscores the urgency of broad civic unity to prevent further harm and instability.

History teaches that moments of crisis demand wisdom, discipline, and national cohesion. Sustainable change requires organization, restraint, and clarity of purpose.

The responsibility of this generation is immense — but so is its potential.