GSA Press Release for the Iranian Student Community of the University of Saskatchewan

September 22, 2022

Subject: The GSA stands with the Iranian student community and condemns the ongoing situation in Iran

The University of Saskatchewan Graduate Student Association (GSA) sends our thoughts and prayers to all Iranian students dealing with the horrific news in Iran. Mahsa Amini (Jina), a 22-year-old Iranian woman (of Kurdish ethnicity), was on a family vacation when the Iranian morality police arrested her on the accusation of violating the compulsory hijab regulation by allegedly wearing hijab improperly. It was alleged by Miss Jina's family that while in custody, Jina was severely beaten into a coma and subsequently died because of the brutal torture. Miss. Jina died on September 16th, 2022, shortly after her arrest, under the custody of the morality police of Iran.

The terrible death of Jina has sparked mass protests across Iran and an outcry globally. Iran's special police forces brutally suppressed the mass protest across Iran. Several protesters have been killed or injured. To stop circulating the Iranian police's brutality toward the protesters, the Iranian government took initiatives to control digital communications, including internet accessibility, significantly. The widespread internet blackout amid mass protests is making it very difficult for Iranian students at the University of Saskatchewan to connect with their family and friends back home.

The GSA strongly regards the freedom of dressing as a basic human right across the world, especially for women. Thus, the GSA is expressing its deepest condolences to the family of late Jina, her family and friends, and the entire Iranian in Saskatchewan and beyond.

Meanwhile, we urge the Iranian student community to take care of their mental health. They can contact the GSA's 24-hour/7-days mental health support service **"Empower Me"** (https://gsa.usask.ca/services/empower-me.php) covered under its Health and Dental Plan.

Sincerely,
GSA Executive Team