

Doc Number: EU000325

**The New York Times**

This copy is for your personal, noncommercial use only. You can order presentation-ready copies for distribution to your colleagues, clients or customers [here](#) or use the "Reprints" tool that appears next to any article. Visit [www.nytreprints.com](http://www.nytreprints.com) for samples and additional information. [Order a reprint of this article now.](#)

PRINTER-FRIENDLY FORMAT  
SPONSORED BY

September 30, 2009

## Iranian Students Stage 2nd Big Protest Since Returning to University Campuses

By NAZILA FATHI

Students at one of [Iran's](#) largest universities staged an antigovernment protest on Tuesday, the second big demonstration at a major university in two days and a further indication that government efforts to intimidate student leaders have not been entirely successful.

Over 1,000 students demonstrated at Sharif University in Tehran on Tuesday morning to protest a visit by the minister of science and higher education, Kamran Daneshjoo, a student Web site, Advarnews, [reported](#).

Protesters carried green balloons and ribbons, a symbol of the protest movement since the disputed June 12 presidential election, and banners that read "The university is still alive," according to the Web site.

The Web site also reported that the university's security guards were not able to disperse the crowd as it kept growing.

On Monday, hundreds of students at Tehran University demonstrated, causing President [Mahmoud Ahmadinejad](#) to cancel his visit there. On Sunday, students held a smaller protest outside the philosophy department building of Tehran University, where a member of Parliament, Gholam Ali Hadad Adel, gave a speech.

The student protests were the first of the new school year, which began last week, and took place despite the [arrests of dozens of student leaders](#) around the country this summer and increased pressure on others not to demonstrate.

Several influential university professors and former student leaders have also been jailed since June. Dozens of student activists have been jailed this month or barred from attending classes, according to student Web sites, in an effort to intimidate students.

The absence of student leaders suggested that the demonstrations were spontaneous, analysts said.

"Student leaders do not have a formal presence," said Ali Afshari, a former student leader who is currently in Washington and is still in touch with students in Iran. "They have all been summoned and threatened. But the frustration is very widespread and the government can only shut down the universities if it wants to stop the protests."

The protest movement, which has produced some of the nation's worst unrest in 30 years, emerged as a response to a widespread belief that Mr. Ahmadinejad falsified election results in his favor. Universities have often been the site of protests, partly because of a student pro-democracy network, the Office for

Consolidating Unity, and a law that bars police officers from entering campuses.

The Office for Consolidating Unity, which once had offices on nearly every campus but has been decimated by government pressure since Mr. Ahmadinejad took power in 2004, issued a [statement](#) on Tuesday saying that the protest movement was a result of years of frustration with the government and that the students would remain part of it. The statement urged students to refrain from violence and to pursue their demands in a “peaceful and civil” manner.

More than 100 activists and former government officials were arrested after the election. A judiciary official, Alireza Avae, said Tuesday that 20 of the detainees had been sentenced, the ISNA news agency [reported](#). However, he did not identify the detainees or disclose the sentences.

[Copyright 2009 The New York Times Company](#)

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [Search](#) | [Corrections](#) | [RSS](#) | [First Look](#) | [Help](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Work for Us](#) | [Site Map](#)

---