

Submission to the PJCIS committee inquiry:

Review of the listing of Ansar Allah as a terrorist organisation under the Criminal Code

Dear PJCIS Committee,

I am thankful for the opportunity to make a submission to the Committee.

I also applaud the Government for listing Ansar Allah as a terrorist organisation under the Criminal Code. This is a reasonable, necessary and proportionate measure to protect Australia's national security.

However, in my view, the published "Statement of Reasons" must be completed to include some key points in two areas:

Leadership:

The document fails to point out that since 13/08/2019, Ansarallah's Abdalmalik Badr al-Din al-Houthi has [pledged](#) allegiance to the sovereignty of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution (a.k.a. Wali al-Faqih¹).

Funding:

The document fails to mention the role of the Guard Corps of the Islamic Revolution (a.k.a. IRGC) in funding Ansar Allah. That the document repeatedly mentions Iran's role in funding Houthis does not eliminate the need to mention the IRGC because:

1. To fund Ansar Allah and its other terrorist units (including Hezbollah, PIJ, and Hamas), IRGC does not rely only on IRI financial resources but it relies mainly on the proceeds of its own illegal activities such as drug trafficking² and [currency counterfeiting](#).
2. Per articles 5, 57, 109, 113, 115, and 145 of the constitution of the IRI and article 34 of the IRGC charter, the IRI and the Islamic Revolution are distinct organisations and IRGC is a part of the latter not a part of the former: whereas the Leader of the Islamic Revolution (a.k.a. Wali al-Faqih, Leader of the global Ummah, the absolute Wali al-Amr³) and the personnel of the Guard Corps of the Islamic Revolution (IRGC) do not have to be Iranian nationals, the president of the IRI, the personnel of the Army of the IRI, and that of its law enforcement forces must all be Iranian nationals. The IRGC is an organ of that supranational organisation not a part of the IRI. Therefore, it deserves to be separately mentioned in the Statement of Reasons.

I thank the committee for its valuable contributions to Australia's national security.

Sincerely,
Arash Behgoo

¹ The Faqih Sovereign (Faqih is a jurist in Sharia)

² In March 2012 US Treasury [Designated](#) an IRGC Quds Force General as a Specially Designated Narcotics Trafficker pursuant to the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (Kingpin Act): *"Today's action exposes IRGC-QF involvement in trafficking narcotics, made doubly reprehensible here because it is done as part of a broader scheme to support terrorism. Treasury will continue exposing narcotics traffickers and terrorist supporters wherever they operate,"* said Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence David S. Cohen.

In [2022](#) and in [2024](#), US Department of State reported that IRGC recruits Afghan, Syrian and Iranian children, who are often struggling with drug addiction, and trains them at various centres (including some in Dayr al Zawr, located in Al Mayadin, Syria) to fight for IRGC and its affiliate units.

Several Media outlets ([example](#)) have written about IRGC's role in funding its terrorist units (including Ansar Allah, Hezbollah, Hamas, and PIJ), using the proceeds of drug trafficking.

³ The Absolute Sovereign of all the Affairs