

13 Nov. 22

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra, Australian Capital Territory 2600

To whom it may concern,

I am a female Iranian-Australian currently working as an Engineer in Australia. I was raised, studied, and worked in a country where oppression against women was daily occurrence, deeply engraved in every aspect of our lives. From the strict dress code to inability to get a passport without our husband's permission. Our dignity and human rights have always been ignored by Islamic Republic of Iran. This is why the current unfortunate turn of events in Iran are specifically difficult to witness without at least attempting to make the situation known in Australia and globally in hope of making life easier for the young Iranian girls and women.

I am writing to you to provide the following submission in response to the inquiry into the human rights implications of recent violence in Iran.

- **Recent violence against Iranian women and young, school aged girls**

Following the death of young Kurdish women Mahsa (Jina) Amini in the custody of morality police in Iran on 16/09/22, several women and young girls protested the regime brutality in enforcing strict dress code for women. Young girls still in high school have shown their dissatisfaction with the current gender apartheid using several peaceful methods such as chanting and removing their head scarf. These peaceful protests have been met with violent attacks often arranged by both school administration and the regime's suppressive forces. In one case, the brutal beating which ensued after the attack to the school led to the death of a 16-year-old schoolgirl named Asra Panahi on 14/10/22. The attack was triggered by the refusal of the students to sing a pro-regime song.

- **Brutal crack down on the journalists and activists who report violence against women**

The recent systematic crack down of the regime on female journalists such as Niloofar Hamedei & Elahe Mohammadi who often put their career and safety at risk to report violence against women, has created immunity for the regime to continue to harass, arrest and attack children (especially young girls) inside several schools. Several female journalists, social activists, and artists who work against the systematic violence against women have been arrested during the last two months. We are deeply concerned about the status of the imprisoned journalists and protesters as some of them have already been sentenced to execution (such as the Kurdish rapper Saman Yasin).

The regime brutality has travelled beyond Iran's borders as Iranian journalists based in London are now threatened to death for reporting on the regime's brutality. We are concerned that the regime is planning terrorist attacks against the anti-regime activists overseas (including activists in Australia).

- **The implications of the recent violence against human rights on the life of women and young girls**

Young Iranian schoolgirls have been stripped of their human rights to have an education in a safe, encouraging, and nurturing environment to follow their ambitions, discover their potential and invest on their future. It is never ok to physically attack or harass children in school, let alone murdering them for reasons such as refusing to sing a political, pro-regime song.

- **Actions available to the Australian Government and other like-minded nations to respond to human rights abuses in Iran**

I would like to suggest below actions in order to take the necessary steps against human rights violations in Iran as well as preventing potential terrorist attacks in Australia:

- Impose Magnitsky-style sanctions against the IRI, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), their officials and individuals connected with each.
- Freeze the assets of the IRI and the IRGC and others affiliated with pursuing the terrorist objectives of the IRI's regime by investing on Australian soil and laundering the corruption money
- Impose travel bans against individuals affiliated with the IRI, the IRGC and the Iranian regime.
- Expel the IRI's ambassador from Australia, along with those who are closely connected with the IRI.
- Formally recognise the IRI as a terrorist regime, and the IRGC as a terrorist organisation.
- Put in place appropriate measures to avoid Australian taxpayers' money is not used to support the brutality of the IRI and its regime.

This submission is confidential as I have concerns regarding the wellbeing of my family members who are still living in Iran. The Islamic Republic of Iran has a well-known history of harassing, arresting and torturing family members of any Iranians who dare criticise the brutality of the regime.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to review this submission at this difficult time.

Yours Sincerely,