

Human rights implications of recent violence in Iran- Nov 2022

Submission:
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee
Human rights implications of recent violence in Iran

Summary

- 1. Extreme violation of human rights, women and children's rights, and abuse of medical facilities by security forces**
- 2. Australia should list the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organisation**
- 3. Australia must use Magnitsky sanctions to target Islamic regime officials directly involved in human rights abuses including Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, as the commander of chief of security forces and responsible for the judiciary**
- 4. Australia should take steps along with other allies to ensure reliable internet access for people inside Iran, so their voices reach international community**
- 5. Australia should take steps to protect Australian-Iranian citizens from reach of Islamic regime spying activities and put an end to regime's illegal activities in Australia including money laundering and breaching international sanctions**
- 6. Australian must push for removing the Islamic regime from the UN Commission on the Status of Women**
- 7. Australia should request urgent session of the UN human Right Commission to condemn Islamic regime brutal crackdown**

The need for urgent and meaningful action:

The brutal murder of Mahsa Amini by the so-called "morality police" in Tehran over 8 weeks ago sparked mass protest across Iran, fuelled by decades of human right abuses, corruption, and crime by the Islamic regime. What followed was a brutal crackdown of peaceful protests killing, arresting, torture and injuring thousands including women, children, and school kids, which are well documented by international media, and Amnesty international.

- More than 300 protestors killed and more than 14000 have been arrested by security forces, many are deprived from their basic rights, medical care, legal representations, and fair legal proceedings.
- Wounded protestors have been kidnapped from hospitals in many occasions, while receiving treatments for their injuries. Many reports suggested plain clothes security officers disguised as nurse or doctors or hospital staff, reporting anyone presented with injuries for arrest
- Islamic regime forces attached Emergency departments in search of injured protestors and throw tear gas inside hospitals full of patient
- Medical staff who were helping casualties or voiced their concern have been shot at, arrested, or summoned to courts (one prominent example is the president of the national medical board of Iran,
- In violation of many international laws and even basic moral standards, ambulances been used to transport security force or detain protestors.

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Yet, what Australian government had done to stop this: NOTHING

Here is a list of potential meaningful actions that Australian government can take to fulfill its human right obligations.

1. Australia should list the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) as a terror organisation

IRGC, officially tasked with protecting the Islamic regime, and spreading its reach beyond Iran's borders, by any means of terror, espionage, or arming militia groups abroad. The IRGC holds direct and indirect control over many financial institutions in Iran, as well as electoral commissions and many quasi-elected and appointed officials of the Islamic regime.

The IRGC has been establishing and sponsoring many terrorists group as proxies in other parts of the Middle East such as Lebanese Hezbollah, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Ansar Allah ('the Houthis') in Yemen, al-Hashd al-Shaabi ('Popular Mobilisation Forces') in Iraq and even some terrorist groups in Nigeria. The IRGC has formed the Basij militia group within Iran, which are also responsible for much of the brutality against protestors.

Abroad, IRCG is responsible for the illegal seizure of shipping vessels in international waters, hacking operations against western targets, the assassination or kidnapping of dissidents from abroad and attacks on international targets with bombs and other devices.

In Iran IRGC forces been detaining, and torturing many political activist, environmental activist, journalist, and university students who dare to criticise the Islamic regime even in slightest tone. IRGC has been behind many show trials and execution of political activist, and planning to do more right now as you read this submission.

The IRGC is the responsible entity behind the Islamic regime Nuclear Program, disguised as peaceful energy program but indeed aiming to develop nuclear weapons.

Yet, members of IRCG have been allowed to enter Australia and even become Australian citizens, allowing them to be involved in activities such as money laundering for IRCG, spying on Iranian diaspora or Australian defence technologies under the cover of studying at Australian Universities. Listing the IRGC as a terror organisation would enable Australian law enforcement to prohibit any IRCG members or supporters of sympathizer to enter and use Australis to support IRCG terrorist activities. International allies such as Canada and the United States have recognised the IRGC as a terror organisation and so should Australia do.

2. Australia must use Magnitsky sanctions to target Islamic regime officials directly involved in human rights abuses including Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, as the commander of chief of security forces and responsible for the judiciary.

Many of Western nations such as US, Canada, the UK, Germany and the EU, have taken swift and concrete action to sanction Iranian officials, including ministers, IRGC commanders and members of the 'morality police,' over their involvement in the brutal crackdown on protests. Yet, Australia so far has resorted to empty diplomatic condemnation in the face of this brutality and contempt for human life, and has not sanctioned a single Iranian government official, nor any Islamic regime organisation who have been part of the crimes against ordinary people of Iran.

This is unacceptable and damaging to the Australia's reputation as a country who cares and defends human right worldwide, and a blow to our Iranian-Australian community trust to the government that expects more than empty words in supporting people of Iran. Over years, the Islamic regime in Iran has shown clearly that it only responds to strong actions not empty words.

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3. Australia should take steps along with other allies to ensure reliable internet access for people inside Iran, so their voices reach international community.

Islamic regime has developed a sophisticated internet filtering system to allow its forces to identify and arrest activists, journalist and ordinary people who try to express their views, as well as preventing people of Iran to connect to the rest of the world, for their voice to be heard. During 2019 crackdown, the Islamic regime, in collaboration with some technology companies (e.g., ARVAN cloud with branches in Germany) shut down the internet access and killed 1500 protestors in a matter of three days. During recent protests, again Islamic regime has restricted internet to prevent people communicating regime's brutality with rest of the world. Australia, along with other nations such as Canada, US, and EU could fund starlink internet for Iran, similar to what was done for Ukraine during Russian invasion.

4. Australia should take steps to Protects Australian-Iranian citizens and general public from reach of Islamic regime spying activities and put an end to regime's illegal activities in Australia including money laundering and breaching international sanctions.

The Iranian regime has infiltrated Australia and established a network of operatives within Australia to influence and threatens Iranian Australians who dare to oppose the regime even in Australia. The regime operatives been spotted filming and monitoring recent protests by Australian-Iranian community members in support of people inside Iran. There are many reports that families of Iranian diaspora in Australia have been threatened back in Iran due to their political activities. Affiliates of the Islamic regime are known to have sought permanent residency in Australia and form part of this spying network, involving in intelligence gathering, laundering corrupt funds from Iran to Australia, and helping regime to circumnavigate international sanctions.

The Australian intelligence agencies must take robust action against the threat of Iranian regime infiltration that threatens all Australians and undermines Australian security.

5. Removing IR Iran from the UN Commission on the Status of Women

Islamic regime of Iran with such a horrific record on women's right, currently sits on the UN Commission on the Status of Women. It is an insult to all women and to such an important UN body, which claims to be "dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women,". Women activists already in long term prison terms in Iran for just speaking out about women's right and gender equality. A regime like Islamic regime of Iran which has demonstrated a complete lack of respect for gender equality and women's rights have no place on such a body, and Australia should work with likeminded states on the Commission to have them removed.

6. Australia should request urgent session of the UN human Right Commission to condemn Islamic regime brutal crackdown.

Australia should join Germany and Iceland in requesting an urgent session on Islamic regime of Iran's deadly crackdowns on protesters, threats against journalists and other alleged human rights violations.

Sincerely yours
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