

9 November 2022

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

INQUIRY INTO THE HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS OF THE VIOLENCE IN IRAN

I write in solidarity with the Iranian community in Australia to express my wish that our government will take a strong and meaningful stand against the violence meted out by the Iranian government on their own people.

Australia has an opportunity to demonstrate, in clear practical terms, our commitment to human rights for Iranian people and our disdain for state sanction violence. I urge the committee to recommend the following actions:

1. That the Australian government should expel the Iranian ambassador from Australia on the basis of his government's violence towards its people.
2. That the Home Affairs Minister should meet with Iranian people in Australia to understand their fears for their own safety and the actions they need in order to feel safe enough to fully express their opinion in Australia. The ABC Background Briefing episode of 4 November 2022 detailed some of the fears that Iranians in Australia have.
3. That the Immigration Minister should demonstrate an acknowledgement of the Iranian government's oppression of their own people, by expediting the asylum claims that Iranians have already lodged in Australia
4. That the Immigration Minister should lift the legislative bar on those Iranians who came to Australia to seek protection, and have not yet been given an opportunity to lodge their asylum claim.

I thank the committee for consideration of this issue and look forward to the outcomes of your inquiry.

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