

14/11/2022

To: **The Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee**

- Senator Chandler (Chair)
- Senator Ciccone (Deputy Chair)
- Senator Fawcett
- Senator Green
- Senator Cadell
- Senator Steele-John

Department of Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Phone: +61 2 6277 3535
Email: fadt.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Hon. Senators,

Please accept this submission to the inquiry into the human rights implications of recent violence in Iran of 16/11/2022.

As you are certainly aware, Iranian people, especially young girls and women have been protesting for their basic human rights for the past 60 days, during which thousands of them have been assaulted, tortured, and even killed.

According to information obtained by [Iran Human Rights](#) NGO, (as of 05/11/2022) at least 304 people including 41 children have been killed nationwide by security forces.

According to the information obtained by [CNN](#), (as of 03/11/2022) 14,000 protesters have been detained or incarcerated. Some of them have already been charged after a brief trial with the national security and religion related sentences which often carry a capital punishment. These protestors are labelled as enemies of the regime and Allah, they will be deprived of opportunities, if not their lives, and are likely to be pushed to seek refuge abroad.

My Concerns,

Requesting tangible and pragmatic steps, in the order of priority:

1. Laws pertaining Magnitsky style autonomous targeted sanctions towards the **individuals** violating human rights or corrupted government officials have been passed in Australia in 2011 and amended in 2021.
 - I request more diligent enforcement of the Autonomous Sanctions Act, as
 - a. Our community has been witnessing some perpetrators living and working in Australia, there have even been tip offs.
 - b. The "Autonomous Sanctions Designated Persons and Entities and Declared Persons – Iran" has not been updated since 14/02/2018 despite radical changes in the political landscape of Iran.
2. For an effective counter-terrorism regime, it is vital that our laws target not only terrorist acts and involved individuals, but also the **organisations** that plan, finance and carry out such acts. It is proven to this community beyond any reasonable doubt that "Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)", "Basiji Militia" and "Morality Police" organisations fall under the definition given in section 102.1 that requires prosecution under Criminal Code Act 1995.

- I request to enlist the three organisations mentioned above as terrorist organisations amongst the 29 other organisations which are currently listed similarly under the Criminal Code.

3. I am fully cognisant of the sensitivity of our **diplomatic relationships**; and despite the importance of the trade between Australia and Iran, I am deeply concerned that our silence can fuel the systematic violence and crime in Iran.

- I request to reduce the level of Australia's representation in Iran from Ambassador to Consulate level. We also request calling in Fereydoun Haghbin, the Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran in Canberra, to officially convey the Australian community's opposition to the violent crackdown of the protestors.

4. Australia is strongly committed to **advancing human rights** globally through our bilateral relationships, development assistance and engagement with civil society, as well as our engagement in regional and multilateral fora, including the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) and the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly.

- I request to sponsor strong resolutions against the criminal actions of the Islamic Republic of Iran in both Australian Parliament and United Nations, including taking steps towards removing the Islamic Republic of Iran from the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW).

5. According to [OpenDemocracy](#), Islamic Republic of Iran is responsible for executing 30,000 **political prisoners**. According to the statistics from [UnitedforIran](#) 765 political prisoners are currently detained in 227 prisons across Iran serving out sentences issued by 569 judges. Evin Prison in Tehran has been the primary site for the housing of Iran's prisoners of conscience; this prison was set on fire on 15/10/2022.

- I request to support the efforts of Iranian Civil Society, United Nations, and Amnesty International in releasing the prisoners of conscience in Iran, including those arrested during the recent protests.

6. Autocracy in Iran also has a **cyber** arm. Democracy is being [oppressed digitally](#), not only by disinformation and restricting access to the information all the time, but also with complete shutdown of the Internet and telecommunication services at the times of protest.

- I request to support Iranian's digital access to Iranian Civil Society; this support could be possible by providing the necessary means or access to the leaders and members of the civil society in Iran.

I appreciate your kind attention to this important matter, and want to finish my submission with the translation of a Persian poem by Saadi (AD 1258):

*Human Beings are members of a whole
In creation of one essence and soul
If one member is inflected with pain
Other members uneasy will remain*

Kind regards,
Signed