

Monday, 19 January 2026

Committee Secretary
Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security

Review of the Listing of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a State Sponsor of Terrorism under the Criminal Code

1. Introduction, Standing, and Prior Evidence

We, Woman Life Freedom Australia, previously made written submissions to the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee during the 2022–23 inquiry into the human rights implications of recent violence in Iran, titled *Human Rights Implications of Recent Violence in Iran*. In addition to the written submissions, we attended the public hearing sessions of that inquiry and provided evidence directly to the Committee.

Our submissions and testimony detailed the structural nature of repression by the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI), the central and irreplaceable role of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in enforcing that repression, and the regime's long-standing record of domestic mass violence and transnational terrorism.

The Senate's Final Report (February 2023) validated many of these concerns, concluding that the Iranian regime is systematically violent, unreformable, and poses ongoing risks not only to its own population but also to foreign states, including Australia. The report specifically highlighted the IRGC's role in repression, foreign interference, intimidation of diaspora communities, cyber operations, and support for terrorism, and recommended formal action against the IRGC.

This submission supports the continued listing of the IRGC and submits that events since the 2022–23 inquiry have significantly strengthened the evidentiary basis for designation, rather than weakened it.

2. The IRGC as the Primary Instrument of State Terror



As outlined in our earlier submission and affirmed by the Senate inquiry, the IRGC is not a conventional military organisation. It is the principal mechanism through which the Iranian regime governs by fear, operating under the direct authority of the Supreme Leader and functioning outside any meaningful legal or civilian oversight.

The IRGC is responsible for:

- Internal repression via the Basij and intelligence arms
- Mass arrests, torture, and extrajudicial killings
- Public executions and coercive “confessions”
- Cyber operations, hostage diplomacy, and foreign interference
- Coordination, funding, and arming of regional proxy militias

These activities were documented extensively during the 2022–23 inquiry and remain ongoing.

3. Escalation Since the 2022–23 Inquiry: Recent Massacres and Collective Punishment

Since the tabling of the Senate’s Final Report, the IRGC has escalated its conduct in ways that are directly relevant to this Committee’s review.

3.1 Mass Killings and Regional Massacres


The IRGC has carried out large-scale lethal operations against civilian populations, particularly in historically marginalised regions such as Kurdistan and Sistan-Baluchistan. These actions include:

- Indiscriminate use of live ammunition against protesters
- Mass killings following peaceful demonstrations
- Collective punishment of entire communities through raids, curfews, and enforced disappearances

These are not isolated incidents but systematic operations designed to terrorise populations into submission.

3.2 Executions, Sham Trials, and Terror as Governance

The IRGC has intensified its reliance on terror tactics, including:

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- Rapid executions following sham trials are lacking due process
 - Public death sentences are intended to intimidate the population
 - Targeting of minors and young protesters
 - Use of torture, sexual violence, and forced confessions

As noted in the Senate’s earlier findings, such practices constitute grave violations of international human rights law. Their continuation and expansion since 2023 confirm that the IRGC uses terror deliberately as a governance tool, not as an aberration.

3.3 Transnational Implications

At the same time, the IRGC has:

- Continued supplying weapons and drones to foreign conflicts
- Maintained intimidation and surveillance of diaspora communities abroad
- Sustained cyber operations and foreign interference activities

These actions directly align with the Senate’s warning that the IRGC represents an ongoing threat beyond Iran’s borders, including to Australia.

4. Relevance to Australian National Security

The Senate Final Report made clear that Iran’s behaviour is not solely a humanitarian concern but a national security issue for Australia, citing:

- Threats and intimidation against Australians
- Foreign interference within Australia
- Cyber activity and hostage diplomacy
- Risks posed by IRGC-linked individuals and networks

The IRGC’s recent massacres and escalation of violence reinforce—not diminish—these risks. Any weakening or reversal of the listing would send a dangerous signal that sustained mass violence and terror can be normalised over time.



5. Importance of Maintaining and Enforcing the Listing

The listing of the IRGC:

- Accurately reflects the organisation's function as a state-sponsored terror apparatus
- Limits the IRGC's ability to exploit Australia's migration, financial, and institutional systems
- Sends a clear signal of solidarity with victims of state violence
- Aligns Australia with the conclusions already reached by its own Parliament

Both our earlier submission and the Senate's Final Report concluded that the Iranian regime—and the IRGC at its core—is structurally incapable of reform. Subsequent events have only reinforced this conclusion.

6. Conclusion

Listing the IRGC as a State Sponsor of Terrorism follows a comprehensive Senate inquiry, public hearings, sworn evidence, and a Final Report that warned of precisely the escalation we are now witnessing.

The IRGC's recent massacres, executions, and collective punishment campaigns remove any residual ambiguity:

The designation of the IRGC is justified, necessary, and overdue to be firmly upheld.

We respectfully urge the Committee to reaffirm the listing and to recommend robust enforcement measures consistent with Australia's legal obligations, national security interests, and democratic values.

Kind regards,
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Woman Life Freedom Australia