

Submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security

Review of the Listing of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

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Executive Summary

Iranian Australian Republicans (IAR) strongly support the continuation and strengthening of the listing of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organisation under Australia's Criminal Code.

The IRGC is a central pillar of state repression, systematic human rights violations, and transnational extremist behaviour. Between late December 2025 and January 2026, the IRGC played a leading role in violent nationwide crackdowns across Iran that resulted in the deaths of thousands of civilians. Credible reporting places fatalities in the multiple thousands, with some independent estimates ranging between 12,000 and 20,000.

Australian intelligence and security agencies have also assessed that Iranian state actors linked to the IRGC were responsible for extremist attacks on Jewish community sites in Australia, which directly contributed to Australia's decision to list the IRGC as a state sponsor of terrorism.

Background: The IRGC as a Terror-Linked State Entity

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps was established in 1979 to protect the Islamic regime's ideological foundations. Notably, the organisation's official title contains no reference to "Iran" as a nation-state, reflecting its ideological, regime-centric, and non-national character rather than that of a conventional national military force.

Over time, the IRGC has evolved into a dominant structure exercising control over military, intelligence, political, and economic domains. International observers consistently identify the IRGC as a sponsor of proxy extremist groups and as a principal actor in systematic internal repression.

Pattern of Repeated Violence and Repression

The conduct of the IRGC during the December 2025–January 2026 crackdown was not an isolated incident. Similar patterns of lethal force, torture, mass arrests, and suppression of civilian populations were extensively documented during previous nationwide protests, including those of 2022.

Under international counter-terrorism frameworks, repetition and continuity of killings, torture, and intimidation constitute key indicators of terrorist organisational behaviour. The IRGC's long-standing pattern of violence against civilians demonstrates an entrenched and ongoing operational method rather than episodic misconduct.

Parliamentary Findings – 2022 Committee Report

In 2022, an Australian parliamentary committee issued a twelve-point report examining the activities and threat profile of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. One of the committee's formal recommendations was that the Australian Government move toward recognising and listing the IRGC as a terrorist organisation.

The decision taken in 2025 to list the IRGC reflects the implementation of these earlier parliamentary recommendations and confirms that the designation is evidence-based, deliberate, and consistent with prior bipartisan security assessments.

Transnational Threats and Security Risks

The IRGC's activities extend well beyond Iran's borders and present tangible risks to international security. Australian authorities have linked Iranian state actors connected to the IRGC to attacks on Jewish community sites within Australia.

This threat profile demonstrates that the IRGC's behaviour impacts not only Iranian citizens but also Australia's national security, social cohesion, and the safety of minority communities.

Why the Listing Must Remain

Arguments that the IRGC should not be listed because it is a state entity misunderstand both Australian law and the organisation's conduct. Australian counter-terrorism legislation explicitly permits the listing of any foreign entity that engages in or supports terrorism, regardless of formal

state affiliation.

The IRGC's sustained record of repeated civilian killings, internal repression, torture, and external extremist activity fully justifies its continued designation as a terrorist organisation.

Recommendations

1. Continue and strengthen the listing of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organisation.
2. Ensure comprehensive coverage of affiliated entities, including the Basij militia and Qods Force.
3. Maintain and enhance intelligence cooperation with allied democratic nations.
4. Publicly reaffirm that the designation targets violent conduct and repression, not the Iranian people.

Conclusion

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps functions as an ideological enforcement apparatus rather than a conventional military institution. Maintaining its terrorist designation aligns with Australia's legal framework, national security interests, and commitment to human rights and democratic values.