



22nd November 2024

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to implore you and your government to proscribe the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organisation under the Terrorism Act 2020.

The IRGC's global reach is well-documented outside of its Iranian base. Its regional influence, including support for proxy groups like Hamas and Hezbollah that are already banned in this country, has resulted in the use of violence, intimidation, and terrorism to advance its militant agenda. The international community has witnessed the IRGC extend its support to militias in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen, creating new avenues for terrorist activity further fueling regional instability.

Beyond its activities in the Middle East, the IRGC has been implicated in cyber-attacks, assassination plots, and covert operations targeting dissidents and civilians in Europe and North America.

As you will be aware, since January 2022, there have been 20 credible threats against British citizens and UK-based individuals, all linked to Iran and the IRGC. Many of the signatories of this letter have been sanctioned by the Islamic Republic of Iran in response to our shared critique of the IRGC and the Iranian Regime.

By proscribing the IRGC, not only would its resources be subject to seizure, but public support for the group would be criminalised. This step is especially critical as public displays glorifying dangerous organisations have increasingly surfaced on the streets of London in recent months.

The threat posed by the IRGC was recognised by the Labour party on several occasions, when in opposition. In one instance from January 2023, the now-Home Secretary and Foreign Secretary outlined the Labour party's support for proscribing the IRGC, stating that, "the Iranian regime's actions against courageous protestors seeking a better future, as well as British nationals imprisoned in Iran and its threats to UK security, mean robust action is needed

now. The IRGC is behaving like a terrorist organisation and must now be proscribed as such.”

Despite growing cross-party calls, and over 100 parliamentary debates on proscribing the IRGC since 2018, no government has acted decisively. Instead, we have relied on sanctions that are riddled with loopholes, poorly enforced, and ultimately ineffective in curbing the IRGC’s activities.

The UK has already proscribed groups like Hamas and Hezbollah, both of which are funded, supplied, and trained by the IRGC. Why should the IRGC, the terror group which drives their militant agendas, be allowed to operate without the same designation?

There is broad political support for proscribing the IRGC. MPs and Peers from all parties have backed this measure, and it is clear the IRGC poses a direct threat to British citizens.

Proscription will demonstrate we are in lockstep with our trans-Atlantic partners, Canada and the United States, who have already undertaken this action, and it will signal that the UK will not tolerate terrorist activities on its shores.

We implore you to use this critical tool available to you in law to take a stand against what is already seen as a terrorist organisation, including by members of your own government. By taking this leadership stance, you will be showing that you head a government committed to action against national and international security threats, not just words.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Alan Mendoza (*Sanctioned*)
Professor David Abulafia CBE FBA
Luke Akehurst MP
Baroness Altmann CBE
Dr. Roham Alvandi, Iranian History Initiative, London School of Economics
Lord Alton (*Sanctioned*)
The Rt Hon Lord Arbuthnot
Bob Blackman MP (*Sanctioned*)
The Rt Hon Stephen Crabb (*Sanctioned*)
Baroness Cox
Sir Richard Dearlove, former head of the British Secret Intelligence Service (*Sanctioned*)
Baroness Deech DBE KC
The Rt Hon Lord Dholakia OBE DL
The Rt Hon Lord Dodds OBE
The Rt Hon Sir Iain Duncan Smith MP
Damien Egan MP

Baroness Eaton DBE DL
Baroness Foster DBE
The Rt Hon Sir Liam Fox (*Sanctioned*)
Lord Grabiner KC
Lord Harrington
Lord Jackson
The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP (*Sanctioned*)
Chris Law MP
Graham Leadbitter MP
Baroness Ludford
IRDame Siobhain McDonagh MP
Baroness Meyer CBE
Manuela Perteghella MP
Lord Palmer OBE
Lord Pannick KC
The Rt Hon Lord Pickles
Lord Polak CBE (*Sanctioned*)
Lord Rennard MBE
The Rt Hon Lord Robathan
Lord Roberts
Benedict Rogers, Author, Human Rights Activist and Co-founder of Conservative
Party Human Rights Commission
Dr. Robert Seely MBE
Jim Shannon MP
Dr. Neil Shastri-Hurst MP
Greg Smith MP
Nick Timothy MP
The Rt Hon Sir John Whittingdale OBE
The Rt Hon Sir Gavin Williamson CBE MP
The Rt Hon Sammy Wilson MP
Lord Turnberg