



Kurdish Lobby Australia

POINTS FOR ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION ON  
HOW THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CAN HELP THE PEOPLE OF IRAN  
Presented by Nader GARIBAN for Kurdish Lobby Australia  
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I am attending this meeting on behalf of Kurdish Lobby Australia, a non-partisan organisation promoting peace, prosperity & democracy in Kurdistan. Today, I would like to suggest six actions that the Australian Government could adopt to help the people of Iran.

**1. Proscribe the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organisation and apply appropriate sanctions and boycotts to the IRGC.**

As Kurds and Iranians, we greatly appreciate the Australian Government sanctioning individuals within the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), but request the Australian Government reconsider its law that does not allow the sanctioning of a government organisation. This law prevents the whole IRGC from being sanctioned for committing, or employing other militias to commit, war crimes and crimes against humanity in Iran, Iraq, and Syria. In Iran, the IRGC was instrumental in Khomeini's Holy War against the Kurds 1979 - 1984; and its members have been responsible for assassinating many Iranian Kurdish leaders and activists in and outside Iran. In Iraq, Quds Commander, Qassem Soleimani, led the military takeover of Kirkuk and other disputed territories, and the IRGC was responsible for bombing and killing nine Iranian Kurdish political activists and civilians in Iraqi Kurdistan in 2022. The IRGC is currently threatening to invade Iraqi Kurdistan if Iranian Kurdish organisations do not disarm. In Syria the IRGC organise militias to fight all opposition to the regime of Bashar al-Assad. The IRGC, was established by Khomeini in 1979 to protect the Guardian Council and the Islamic Republic. Its members have become Iranian presidents. It is militarily, politically, and commercially entwined with clerical rule. One way to weaken this symbiotic relationship is to work on existing divisions within and between the IRGC and Majliis.

**2. Apply sanctions to individuals and their extended family linked to specific goals**

It is not enough to sanction an individual judge, prosecutor, revolutionary guard, basiji, policeperson, torturer, or executioner, as they may not have overseas assets or any intention to travel. For sanctions to be effective levers to change policy and behaviour they must (1) apply to the individual and their extended family and (2) be linked to a specific goal or end game. This puts pressure on the family to ask its member not to work in a specific field, and links the sanction to a desired outcome such as the individual ceasing the work, policy or behaviour, and perhaps be willing to provide evidence in an international court.

**3. Make a case for the Regime's crimes against humanity to an International Criminal Court**

One or more countries or a prosecutor could build a case of Iran's crimes against humanity to be heard by the International Criminal Court or other body based on the mass executions of Kurds in 1979, including at Sanandaj Airport on 27 August 1979 (of which there is extensive photographic evidence); the use of child soldiers in the Iran-Iraq War; and the execution of thousands of political prisoners all over Iran in 1988 overseen by Iran's president, Ebrahim Raisi. Then there is the frequent use of torture, the death penalty for political prisons, and the abhorrent revolutionary courts.



#### **4. Facilitate Refugee and humanitarian visas for Iranians whose lives are threatened**

Australia could accept Iranians who are threatened with prison sentences or execution for being a Kurd, including members of Iranian Kurdish Political parties whose families have been living in Iraqi Kurdistan for 30 years, teachers of the Kurdish language, conservationists, fire fighters who put out regime lit fires, journalists, and activists.

#### **5. Australia can speak out at public forums and raise issues with Iranian officials.**

Issues include:

- 1/ The frequent use of torture, and use of torture to gain a confession;
- 2/ The use of Revolutionary courts where one judge's verdict is often based on a forced confession and where the person on trial has no defence lawyer;
- 3/ The use of the death penalty, especially for political prisoners.
- 4/ The Guardian Council having final say on which candidates can stand for election
- 5/ The appointment rather than election of provincial governors
- 6/ other discriminating practices related to gender, ethnicity, language, religion, education, and work.

#### **6. Provide resources for different Iran-linked organisations in Australia to discuss strategies to achieve one or more forms of governance in Iran that respect democracy, justice, and diversity.**