

COUNTERING IRAN'S DESTABILIZING ACTIVITIES

INTRODUCTION

The Iranian regime and its terrorist proxies remain a clear and present danger to Canada, its citizens and our national interests. There should be no re-engagement with Iran diplomatically unless it commits to fully recognizing Israel's right to exist, to refrain from supporting destabilizing groups such as Hezbollah, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and Hamas, to release unjustifiably imprisoned human rights and women's rights activists, and to not use any diplomatic presence in Canada to frustrate the interests of the Iranian-Canadian community and Canada's Jewish community. Iran's performance must be judged against a series of clear benchmarks, which should be reported to Parliament and the Canadian people.

THE CONTEXT

The IRGC, a branch of Iran's military, is specifically tasked with upholding the brutal Islamist dictatorship. It serves as the main link between the regime and its terror proxies such as Hezbollah, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and Hamas. The Quds Force, which serves as the IRGC's external operations branch, is already a designated terrorist entity in Canada. The main objective of the IRGC is to fuel and fund terrorism. It serves as a constant threat to the safety and security of civilians in the region.

The Iranians are striving to use Hezbollah to bring about the collapse of two main principles that have guided Israeli policy since the beginning of the civil war in Syria:

- 1) **That it will not allow weapons that could** tip the strategic balance in the area to be shipped into its fronts with Syria or Lebanon; and
- 2) **To prevent the Syrian Golan from** becoming a zone for launching offensive operations against Israel, as is the Lebanese border already.

In light of recent developments, there have been some calling for Canadian re-engagement with Iran. B'nai Brith Canada is urging a series of measures to ensure that any such re-engagement is not undertaken if it poses a threat to Canada, Canadians of Iranian origin or Canada's Jewish community.

B'NAI BRITH CANADA'S POSITION

The Iranian regime and its terrorist proxies remain a clear and present danger to Canada, its citizens and our national interests. We believe that any efforts in which Canada might be engaged to foster dialogue with Iran must take these factors into account. Any Iranian physical presence in Canada –

should diplomatic relations be fully re-established – would constitute a clear danger to the Jewish community, Iranian democratic forces and dissidents in Canada, and others, as we have seen in places such as Argentina, Germany and New Zealand.

On the heels of the United States decision to label the entirety of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist group, **B'nai Brith has urged Canada to list the entirety of the IRGC as a terrorist entity**, as it has previously committed to do and as it did with Hezbollah in 2002. In June, 2018, B'nai Brith lauded a private member's motion in the House of Commons, which received multi-party support, that included a call to list the entirety of the IRGC as a terrorist entity. At the time, then-Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale confirmed that the process to outlaw the IRGC would proceed. However, some two years later, the IRGC has yet to be so designated.

Given [reports](#) that Hezbollah has been infiltrating Canada to advance its '*transnational narco-terrorism*' agenda, in addition to coordinating terror attacks against Israel, a staunch Canadian ally, from inside Syria, **we must send a strong message to Iran, the IRGC, and its various terror proxies that their ideology is contrary to world peace and will not be tolerated.**

We have separately called on the Prime Minister to commit that **there will be no re-engagement with Iran diplomatically unless it commits to fully recognizing Israel's right to exist, to refrain from supporting destabilizing groups such as Hezbollah, to release unjustifiably imprisoned human rights and women's rights activists, and to not use its diplomatic presence in Canada to frustrate the interests of the Iranian-Canadian community and Canada's Jewish community.**

GARNET GENUIS' PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTION

B'nai Brith Canada **endorses the approach incorporated in Mr. Garnet Genuis' private member's motion** and that proposed in legislation such as Senate Bill S-219, including a series of benchmarks that must apply a '*test*' to any notional re-engagement with Iran:

[There must be]

An ongoing analysis of the incidence of terrorist activity, support of terrorism, incitement to hatred, and human rights violations, emanating from Iran, the identification of Iranian officials who are responsible for such activities and the strengthening of Canada's non-nuclear sanctions regime against Iran by

- a) requiring the Minister of Foreign Affairs to publish an annual report on Iran-sponsored terrorism, incitement to hatred, and human rights violations that includes a description of measures taken by the Government of Canada to address those activities;*
- b) providing that the Special Economic Measures (Iran) Regulations apply in respect of the following, as if they were persons whose names are listed in Schedule 1 of those regulations:*

- i. *the Execution of Imam Khomeini's Order (EIKO),*
 - ii. *Iranian officials named in the annual report as being persons the Minister believes to be responsible for terrorist activity, support of terrorism, incitement to hatred, or serious human rights violations, and*
 - iii. *other entities named in the annual report, including those that the Minister believes have been owned or controlled by EIKO or the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) or the officers of which have been acting on behalf of EIKO or the IRGC during the five preceding years;*
- c) **providing that Canada's current sanctions regime against Iran cannot be eased** unless two consecutive annual reports conclude that there is no credible evidence of terrorist activity or incitement to hatred emanating from Iran and that there has been significant progress in Iran in respect of human rights; and
- d) **requiring the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness to consider** whether to recommend that the IRGC be named a listed entity (terrorist group) under the Criminal Code.

CALL TO ACTION

B'nai Brith Canada (working together with groups such as The Council of Iranian Canadians, The Justice '88 Campaign, and the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights) is also calling on the Government of Canada to:

1. **Reaffirm unequivocally Canada's determination** that the Iranian regime never be permitted to acquire nuclear weapons (see our separate policy paper);
2. **Introduce additional sanctions** to ensure ironclad constraints on Iran's nuclear-capable ballistic missile program;
3. **Pursue a strong, united diplomatic front** to ensure Iran not be permitted to establish a permanent civilian or military presence in Syria;
4. **Target propaganda tools of the Iranian regime** (such as its annual Holocaust Denial Cartoon Contest) through sanctions against Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB);
5. **Investigate Iranian government involvement in the funding of hate-inciting events** such as al-Quds Day and the Ashura festival (while ensuring that such events do not take root in Canada); and

6. **Encourage, and contribute to, greater international financial support for Iranian human rights NGOs.** Canada and its allies and partners must sanction the major Iranian "*architects of repression*" responsible for the massive assault on women's rights activists, environmental activists, journalists, and members of the LGBTQ community.

"We will judge Iran not by its words but by its actions. The world is watching", said Canada's Foreign Minister, François-Philippe Champagne, in February 21, 2020, remarks to the Montreal Council on Foreign Relations. B'nai Brith Canada fully endorses this view, which must be based on a practical, comprehensive assessment of Iran's responses to Canada's interests.

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