



# TIME TO PROSCRIBE IRAN'S IRGC

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# INTRODUCTION

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has a long and appalling record of promoting antisemitic propaganda, including Holocaust-denial, and funding and orchestrating violence against Jews.

This is in addition to being the world's biggest state-sponsor of terrorism more generally, the effects of which are not only profound in the Middle East but felt on every continent in the world. According to our nation's security chiefs, Iran directly threatens the UK.

What is less known is that it is specifically the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, or IRGC, that is one of the principal instruments through which the Iranian regime carries out these endeavours.

Founded in 1979 by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the IRGC is a paramilitary force that answers directly to the radical regime. Its purpose is to serve as a praetorian guard for the theocracy at home and to advance its interests abroad. That includes training, arming and supporting terrorist groups and encouraging strategic acts of terror against targets deemed hostile to the Islamic Republic.

The IRGC has a paramount role in cultivating antisemitic sentiment, giving succour to antisemites and backing terrorism against Jews.

As this report details, the IRGC is a vital organ pumping antisemitic propaganda in Iran and through the Middle East, it emboldens those who wish harm to Jewish people in the name of extremist religion, and it is the indispensable patron of such antisemitic genocidal terrorist groups as Hizballah and Hamas, both of which are proscribed by the UK.

It is therefore right for Britain to recognise the antisemitism and broader malevolence at the core of the IRGC and move to proscribe the IRGC as a terrorist organisation as well.

Campaign Against Antisemitism is a volunteer-led, apolitical charity dedicated to exposing and countering antisemitism through education and zero-tolerance enforcement of the law.

Over the years, particularly recently, evidence has mounted of support for the IRGC in Britain, some of which has been directly documented by Campaign Against Antisemitism and is especially concerning when considered in the context of the high rate of domestic antisemitism.

The proscription of the IRGC-backed Islamist terrorist group Hizballah in 2019, which was followed by the outlawing of Hamas in 2021, can serve as a case study for a similar ban of the IRGC.

Just as the proscription of Hizballah and Hamas sent a powerful message to the Jewish community — and Islamists — that antisemitism and terrorism will not be tolerated in the UK, so would the proscription of the IRGC, particularly at a time of record-breaking antisemitism in Britain and around the world.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has a long and appalling record of promoting antisemitic propaganda, including Holocaust-denial, and funding and orchestrating violence against Jews.
- **The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, or IRGC, is one of the principal instruments through which the regime carries out these antisemitic and violent policies.**
- Officially a branch of the Iranian Armed Forces, the IRGC in reality functions as a parallel paramilitary force that answers directly to the regime. It was founded by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini after the Islamic Revolution in 1979 with the purpose of protecting the theocracy from coups and advancing its interests in Iran and abroad.
- **The IRGC poses a direct threat to the UK and our allies. It is, however, in the realm of antisemitic terrorism that the IRGC truly comes into its element.**
- There have been some 50 known terrorist operations against Jewish targets worldwide orchestrated by Iran, through the IRGC or its client Hizballah over the past several decades.
- **The most infamous and fatal Iranian-sponsored attack on a Jewish target was the bombing of the AMIA Jewish community centre in Buenos Aires, Argentina in July 1994, which killed 85 and injured over 300. While the attack was executed by Hizballah, it was coordinated by the IRGC. Ahmad Vahidi led a unit of IRGC's al-Quds Force at the time and is believed to have planned the bombing. He now serves as Iran's Interior Minister.**
- The IRGC is an indispensable backer of Shia militias in Yemen and Iraq as well as the proscribed terrorist groups Hizballah, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.
- **There are documented examples of support for the IRGC in Britain, particularly following the assassination by the US in Iraq of Qasem Soleimani, the commander of the IRGC's elite al-Quds Force and a figure widely believed to be the second most powerful man in Iran.**
- IRGC flags have also been observed by Campaign Against Antisemitism at demonstrations on the streets of London.
- **There have long been calls for the proscription of the IRGC in the UK. The US, Israel, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain already proscribe the IRGC, while Canada has recently taken steps to do the same and Germany and the EU are considering elevating their sanctions to a full ban.**
- Britain's proscription of the terrorist group Hizballah in its entirety in 2019 and Hamas in its entirety in 2021 can serve as a case study for a full ban of the IRGC in the UK.

# WHAT IS IRAN'S IRGC?

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has a long and appalling record of promoting antisemitic propaganda, including Holocaust-denial, and funding and orchestrating violence against Jews.

By way of example, Iran has hosted Holocaust-denial cartoon competitions, and Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, who occupies the premier political and religious position in the country and exerts international influence, has called the Holocaust a "myth".<sup>1</sup> Just this year, Iran's President has also said that whether the Holocaust happened "should be investigated."<sup>2</sup>

The Ayatollah also routinely propagates antisemitic conspiracy theories about "Zionist" control of America, world markets and the media. In the summer of 2022, for example, he tweeted: "The Western powers are a mafia. The reality of this power is a mafia. At the top of this mafia stand the prominent Zionist merchants, and the politicians obey them. The US is their showcase, and they're spread out everywhere."<sup>3</sup> In relation to coronavirus, the Ayatollah said that "the Jews are experts at sorcery and at creating relationships with demons."<sup>4</sup>

Iran has never hidden its intention to destroy the world's only Jewish state, with even the so-called 'moderate' former President Hassan Rouhani, for example, saying that "there is a

cancerous growth in the region called the Zionist regime."<sup>5</sup>

Iran's Jewish community is widely known to operate under official discrimination, invasive scrutiny and Government restrictions, in addition to the routine propaganda from state agencies and the media, where foreign critics and foes are regularly cast as "Jews" and "puppets of Jewish control".<sup>6</sup>

The IRGC is one of the principal instruments through which the regime carries out these policies.



Iranian MPs wear IRGC uniforms

Officially a branch of the Iranian Armed Forces, the IRGC in reality functions as a parallel paramilitary force that answers directly to the regime.

The IRGC is believed to have well over a quarter of a million personnel, including ground forces incorporating the Basij Resistance Force, naval forces and aerospace forces, as

1. See <https://www.memri.org/reports/iranian-supreme-leader-khamenei-denied-holocaust-%E2%80%93-memri-disproves-iranian-fm-zarifs-claim>
2. See <https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/middle-east/iran-eastern-states/1663567397-iranian-president-raisi-questions-holocaust-calls-for-research>
3. See <https://www.timesofisrael.com/us-calls-out-iran-supreme-leader-for-claiming-west-controlled-by-zionist-merchants/>
4. See <https://www.memri.org/reports/irgc-cyber-division-confirms-supreme-leader-khameneis-assertion-demons-are-assisting-enemies>
5. See <https://www.memri.org/reports/rohani-calls-muslims-to-unite-against-us-and-cancerous-zionist-regime>
6. See <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/IRAN-2019-HUMAN-RIGHTS-REPORT.pdf>



well as a special forces branch known as the IRGC Quds Force. The IRGC also has a media arm, which disseminates pro-regime propaganda.

Ideologically, the IRGC promotes the notion that there is a global conspiracy against Shia Islam by a "[Sunni] Arab-Zionist-Western axis" and certain sects of Sunni Islam, such as Wahhabism and Salafism, have Jewish origins and were created by British colonialists to destroy Islam from within.

The IRGC has also advanced the antisemitic conspiracy that ISIS and al-Qaeda were created and are supported by Israel, as well as Britain, the United States, Saudi Arabia and Western media outlets like the BBC. These conspiracies feature in IRGC textbooks which are disseminated across schools and religious organisations in Iran and in IRGC-linked institutions across the Middle East. They are also promulgated by leading Shia figures, including the Supreme Leader and a former Prime Minister of Iraq. According to one analyst, "Such ideas leverage regional anti-imperialist and antisemitic views that have long existed and have historically been leveraged by Salafi-jihadi groups."<sup>7</sup>

IRGC textbooks also call for Jews and Christians who do not pay the discriminatory *jizya* tax to the Islamic Government to be killed, among other antisemitic motifs.<sup>8</sup>

As the chief repressive force in Iran, the IRGC put down major internal protests in 2009, 2017-18, 2019 and currently in 2022-23, and is responsible for the murder of countless civilians.

Not only does the IRGC serve as a praetorian guard at home for the Iranian regime, to which it is fiercely loyal, but it also conducts terrorist operations abroad on behalf of Iran's leadership in pursuit of the Government's foreign policy interests.

The IRGC's foreign activities were brought to international attention when in January 2020 the United States assassinated Qasem Soleimani, the commander of the IRGC's elite al-Quds Force and a figure widely believed to be the second most powerful man in Iran, after the Supreme Leader. He was key to the defence of the Assad regime in Syria, a longtime ally and client of Iran, as well as of the Shia radicals in Iraq, where he was ultimately killed. A strong supporter of the proscribed Lebanese terrorist group Hizballah, Soleimani is believed to have been in Lebanon in 2006 to manage Hizballah's attack on Israel.

Soleimani had personally been sanctioned by the United Nations and European Union, and was designated a terrorist by the United States as far back as 2005. In October 2011, the UK designated Soleimani under the Terrorist Asset Freezing Etc Act 2010.



Qasem Soleimani

7. See <https://institute.global/policy/beyond-borders-expansionist-ideology-irans-islamic-revolutionary-guard-corps>

8. See <https://institute.global/policy/beyond-borders-expansionist-ideology-irans-islamic-revolutionary-guard-corps>

# IRGC TERRORISM AGAINST JEWS

In November 2022, the Director General of MI5, Ken McCallum, observed that “Iran projects threat to the UK directly, through its aggressive intelligence services.” He went on to reveal that, “At its sharpest this includes ambitions to kidnap or even kill British or UK-based individuals perceived as enemies of the regime. We have seen at least ten such potential threats since January alone. We work at pace with domestic and international partners to disrupt this completely unacceptable activity.”<sup>9</sup>

These threats emanate from the IRGC. One recent attempt was the reported deployment of a hit squad to assassinate two British journalists working for a Farsi-language television station based in the UK.<sup>10</sup>

Of course, Britain is well-acquainted with Iran's radical Islamism and support for terrorist violence. It was just last year that one assailant, widely reported to have been inspired by the IRGC, came closest to fulfilling the Ayatollah's fatwa against the author Sir Salman Rushdie in the United States in connection with his book, *The Satanic Verses*. Citing a law enforcement official, news networks reported that a review of the suspect's social-media accounts showed that he “is sympathetic to Shia extremism and IRGC causes.”<sup>11</sup>

Previously, in addition to other attempts on Sir Salman's life, the Japanese translator of *The Satanic Verses* was murdered, its Norwegian publisher was shot, and the Italian translator

was stabbed. An attempt to murder the Turkish translator by arson killed dozens.

Similar terrorism also targets key British allies. Last summer, an IRGC member was charged in the US with an attempt on the life of former UN Ambassador John Bolton.<sup>12</sup>



IRGC tank parade in 2012

It is, however, in the realm of antisemitic terrorism the IRGC truly comes into its element.

The most infamous Iranian-sponsored attack on a Jewish target was the bombing of the AMIA Jewish community centre in Buenos Aires, Argentina in July 1994, which killed 85 and injured over 300. The attack was executed by Hizballah and was coordinated by the IRGC. Ahmad Vahidi, who led a unit of the IRGC's al-Quds Force, is believed to have planned the bombing. He now serves as Iran's Interior Minister.

The AMIA attack was only one of some fifty known terrorist operations against Jewish targets orchestrated by Iran, through the IRGC, and Hizballah, over the past several decades.

9. See <https://www.mi5.gov.uk/news/director-general-ken-mccallum-gives-annual-threat-update#sthash.SmewJ1Q4.dpuf>

10. See <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/11/07/iran-sends-hit-squad-murder-two-british-journalists/>

11. See <https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/who-is-hadi-matar-nj-man-suspected-in-salman-rushdie-attack/3822984/2>. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/08/13/naive-westerners-still-refuse-accept-truth-irans-evil-regime/>



Bombing of the AMIA Jewish Centre in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1994

For example, in 2017, a German court convicted a Pakistani national on charges of spying for the IRGC's al-Quds Force after he had collected information on, and taken hundreds of photographs of, Jewish and Israeli possible targets for attacks in Germany and France.<sup>13</sup>

In 2019, two Iranian operatives pleaded guilty in the US to espionage.<sup>14</sup> They were charged with collecting information on Jewish and Israeli targets in the US and on opponents of the Iranian regime. One of the operatives undertook hostile reconnaissance against Jewish religious and cultural centres in Chicago, taking photographs of the security around one of the buildings.<sup>15</sup>

Meanwhile, over the past two years, at least thirteen terrorist attacks by the IRGC against Jewish and Israeli targets on four continents have been foiled and publicly revealed.<sup>16</sup>

For example, in November 2021, plots against Jewish and Israeli centres in Senegal and Ghana were foiled, while in November 2022, it was reported that the IRGC had tried to

assassinate a former senior Jewish Agency representative and prominent businessman in Georgia.<sup>17</sup>

The IRGC does not only operate against Jews directly, however. It also does so through its financial, logistical and ideological support for other terrorist groups and militias, as was the case in the AMIA bombing.

These client groups include militias in Yemen and Iraq, where Qasem Soleimani was assassinated.<sup>18</sup>



IRGC-backed Houthis in Yemen chant antisemitic slogans and perform Nazi salutes

But foremost among the groups backed by the IRGC is Hizballah, the antisemitic genocidal Shia Islamist terror group based in Lebanon. Hizballah was proscribed by the British Government in 2019 after years of its flags being displayed at demonstrations in the UK.

For decades, the IRGC has supported Hizballah's terrorist activities with funding, guidance, weapons, intelligence and logistical support, as well as operating training camps in Lebanon for Hizballah fighters and reportedly training thousands of the Lebanese group's

13. See [https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/1224/html/#\\_ftn23](https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/1224/html/#_ftn23)

14. See <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/two-individuals-sentenced-connection-work-behalf-iran>

15. See [https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/1224/html/#\\_ftn23](https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/1224/html/#_ftn23)

16. See [www.inss.org.il/publication/iran-terror](http://www.inss.org.il/publication/iran-terror)

17. See <https://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-says-irans-quds-force-tried-to-kill-israeli-businessman-in-georgia>

18. See [https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5801/cmselect/cmaff/415/41506.htm#\\_idTextAnchor035](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5801/cmselect/cmaff/415/41506.htm#_idTextAnchor035)

19. See <https://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/pages/hp644.aspx>

20. See <https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/how-iran-fuels-hamas-terrorism>



militiamen at its facilities in Iran.<sup>19</sup>

In January 2021, IRGC Aerospace Force commander Amir Ali Hajizadeh stated: "All the missiles you might see in Gaza and Lebanon were created with Iran's support."<sup>20</sup>

The IRGC is also active in Gaza through Hamas and other terrorist groups.

Hamas is an antisemitic genocidal terrorist group proscribed by the UK. It rules the Gaza Strip with an iron fist and launches terrorist attacks against Israel from the territory. It also has outposts in several Middle Eastern cities. The group has long depended on Iran to survive.

In Hamas's early years, the IRGC and Hizballah hosted its members and taught them how to build and use suicide bombs, a tactic that Hizballah pioneered. During the 1990s and 2000s and through Hamas's violent takeover of Gaza, those allies provided Hamas with the expertise and support that it needed to wage its terrorist campaign.

The relationship was further strengthened by Iran's efforts to foster Hamas's rocket programme. In 2014, IRGC missile commander Ahmed Hosseini disclosed that, years earlier, Hamas operatives had been "armed and trained by Hizballah...Some of them even came to Iran for training." He specified that the architect of Iran's own missile program, the IRGC's then-General Hassan Tehrani Moghaddam, had "armed them and guided them."

Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestinian Authority, said in 2010 that "Hamas is funded by Iran. It claims it is financed by donations, but the donations are nothing like what it

receives from Iran." During the Syrian civil war, when Iran and Hamas backed opposing sides, relations soured, but since 2017 there has been a reconciliation, and Iran is, by Hamas's own reckoning, once again the group's "largest backer financially and militarily."<sup>21</sup>

In May 2021, Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh praised Iran for enabling Hamas's activities, revealing that the group's sponsor "did not hold back with money, weapons, and technical support." This observation came just days after a telephone call was reported between Esmail Qaani, Head of the IRGC's al-Quds Force, and Mr Haniyeh, in which Mr Qaani lauded Hamas's operations.



Participant in a 2021 rally in London wears a Hamas headband

The proscribed Islamic Jihad terror group is another IRGC-backed organisation active in Gaza.<sup>22</sup> The group receives an estimated £58m a year from Iran, a fall on previous support due to sanctions on Iran. Iran also provides Islamic Jihad with weapons and training. Following the assassination of Qasem Soleimani, the then-leader of Islamic Jihad, Ramadan Shalah, visited Iran to pledge allegiance.<sup>23</sup>

These are only a selection of the terror groups who aspire to harm Jews, are proscribed by the UK Government and are supported by the IRGC.

21. See <https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/how-iran-fuels-hamas-terrorism>

22. See <https://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/pages/tg1320.aspx>

23. See <https://mailchi.mp/e488d48878d2/morning-brief-15895184>

# SUPPORT IN BRITAIN FOR IRAN'S IRGC

The most visible British support for the IRGC came following the assassination of Qasem Soleimani in 2020.

At least ten public vigils were held between 3rd and 10th January in London, Birmingham, Manchester and Luton.<sup>24</sup>

The Islamic Centre of England, a registered charity, held a vigil for the terrorist leader at its West London premises, prompting an investigation by the Charity Commission, which found that the event risked associating the charity with a speaker who may have committed an offence under the Terrorism Acts, as the speaker was filmed during the event appearing to praise and call for support for Soleimani. The trustees failed to intervene or provide a sufficient explanation. The following day, the trustees organised a further event and published statements on its website offering condolence and praise for Soleimani, prompting the Charity Commission to issue an Official Warning.<sup>25</sup>

The Islamic Centre of England is believed to serve as an office for Iran's Supreme Leader, and its Director, Seyed Hashem Moosavi, is understood to have been appointed by the regime as a mid-ranking cleric.<sup>26</sup>

At another vigil, the founder and Chairman of the roistered charity, Islamic Human Rights

Commission (IHRC), Massoud Shadjareh, reportedly stated: "And we hope, and we pray and we work hard to make sure that there will be many, many more Qasem Soleimanis. We aspire to become like him. We aspire and we are jealous of his *shahada*, and we want the same thing for ourself and our loved ones. Because that's the best thing that could happen to us."<sup>27</sup>

It has been reported that Mr Shadjareh co-authored a paper in 2008 which read: "We are all Hizballah," a reference to the proscribed antisemitic IRGC-backed terrorist group.<sup>28</sup> Another of the IHRC's Directors, Saied Reza Ameli, is reportedly the secretary of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution, which is one of Iran's main policymaking bodies.<sup>29</sup> The IHRC is the organiser of the controversial annual Al-Quds Day march in London, where Hizballah flags have previously been seen displayed<sup>30</sup> and expressions of antisemitism have been witnessed.<sup>31</sup>

Tonight at Islamic centre of England in London , a candle light vigil was held with special tributes and thoughts on martyrdom of Lieutenant general Hajji Qassem #Soleimani and Abu Mahdi Muhandis. #WeAreSoleimani pic.twitter.com/V4jIOYC5Pa



10:04 pm · 4 Jan 2020 · Twitter for Android

24. See <https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/1224/pdf>

25. See <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/charity-regulator-issues-official-warning-to-islamic-centre-of-england-ltd>

26. See <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/iran-leader-s-office-took-100-000-furlough-grant-from-uk-taxpayers-hmrprg0hh>

27. See [https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/1224/html/#\\_ftn35](https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/1224/html/#_ftn35)

28. See <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/massoud-shadjareh-pro-hezbollah-group-chief-seen-at-israeli-envoy-protest-qxlws6x9p>

29. See <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/massoud-shadjareh-pro-hezbollah-group-chief-seen-at-israeli-envoy-protest-qxlws6x9p>

30. See <https://antisemitism.org/caa-submits-complaints-about-al-quds-day-to-the-charity-commission-and-police/>

31. See <https://antisemitism.org/antisemitism-still-on-display-at-quieter-al-quds-day-parade-in-london-this-year/>

Vigils are not the only occasions on which support for the IRGC has manifested on British streets.

In May 2021, for example, Campaign Against Antisemitism photographed an IRGC flag at a protest in central London. Overt antisemitism was also on display at the demonstration.<sup>32</sup>



Campaign Against Antisemitism photographed the IRGC flag at a rally in central London where antisemitism was also on display, May 2021

Already in December 2020, the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee called for designation of the IRGC. In its “No prosperity without justice: the UK’s relationship with Iran” report, the Committee concluded: “We are satisfied that the actions of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corp meet the criteria for proscription in the Terrorism Act 2000 and see proscription as a logical extension of the existing restrictions placed on members of the IRGC by the EU’s sanctions regime.

“The IRGC’s philosophy and malign actions within Iran and across the region run counter to the interests of the UK and those of the Iranian people. We recommend that the Foreign Secretary works with the Home Secretary to

assess the available information on the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps with a view to laying an order before Parliament to proscribe the IRGC in its entirety.”<sup>33</sup>



Official flag of the IRGC

In January 2023, it was reported that the Security Minister and Home Secretary intended to proscribe the IRGC.

It was observed that “in recent years, shows of support for the IRGC, which would likely become illegal if the group is proscribed, have been seen on the streets of Britain.”<sup>34</sup>



Ceremonial flag of the Guardians of the Islamic Revolution

32. See <https://antisemitism.org/london-is-scene-of-another-antisemitism-strewn-demonstration-as-terrorist-flags-fly-over-crowds-and-speakers-declare-that-israel-creates-antisemitism-and-there-will-be-no-ceasefire-in-our-campaign>

33. See [https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5801/cmselect/cmfa/415/41506.htm#\\_idTextAnchor035](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5801/cmselect/cmfa/415/41506.htm#_idTextAnchor035)

34. See <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2023/01/02/irans-islamic-revolutionary-guard-set-proscribed-terror-group>

# WHO ELSE PROSCRIBES IRAN'S IRGC?

In 2020, the Tony Blair Institute called on the UK, EU and Five Eyes to designate the IRGC.<sup>35</sup>

## UNITED STATES

Iran has been designated as a state-sponsor of terrorism by the US since 1984. In 2007, the IRGC in particular was designated by the US Department of the Treasury under the counterproliferation authorities of Executive Order (EO) 13382. The IRGC's al-Quds Force specifically was also designated as a terrorist group under EO 13224 at the same time. In 2011, the Department designated the IRGC under EO 13553, and in 2017, the IRGC in its entirety was designated as a terrorist entity under EO 13224.<sup>36</sup>

In April 2019, the State Department added the IRGC to the Foreign Terrorist Organisation list.<sup>37</sup> This designation introduced at least two new restrictions on the IRGC, namely that the US can prevent IRGC members from entering the country by denying visas to current and former members, and, in addition, third parties – whether individuals, companies or countries – can face criminal charges if they do not comply with US sanctions against the IRGC.<sup>38</sup>

This designation and its effects have broad support in the US Congress. In May 2022, for example, a bipartisan supermajority of senators supported a resolution that opposed

lifting sanctions on the IRGC.<sup>39</sup>

In 2022, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that the IRGC is “probably the most designated organisation — one way or another — in the world among the organisations that we designate, including the foreign terrorist organisation designation.”<sup>40</sup>

## EUROPEAN UNION

The EU has long banned economic transactions with the IRGC and numerous entities connected to it.<sup>41</sup> In October 2022, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock revealed that Germany and the EU “are also examining how we can list the Revolutionary Guards as a terrorist organisation.”<sup>42</sup>

## CANADA

Canada listed the IRGC al-Quds Force in 2012.<sup>43</sup> In October 2022, the Canadian Government banned 10,000 leading IRGC members from the country and announced further sanctions. In November 2022, the Ontario Superior Court found that the IRGC is a terrorist organisation under Canadian law.<sup>44</sup>

## MIDDLE EAST

Israel, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain all designate the IRGC as a terrorist organisation.

35. See <https://institute.global/policy/beyond-borders-expansionist-ideology-irans-islamic-revolutionary-guard-corps>

36. See <https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/dont-drop-irans-revolutionary-guards-fto-list>

37. See <https://www.state.gov/designation-of-the-islamic-revolutionary-guard-corps>

38. See <https://www.ajc.org/news/what-is-irans-islamic-revolutionary-guard-corps>

39. See <https://www.conferenceofpresidents.org/news/press/2022/may25/jewish-leaders-welcome-president-bidens-decision-keep-islamic-revolutionary>

40. See <https://www.timesofisrael.com/pm-to-blinken-israel-concerned-by-potential-delisting-of-irgc-as-terror-group>

41. See <https://www.iranwatch.org/sanctions/european-union>

42. See <https://www.timesofisrael.com/eu-considering-listing-irans-revolutionary-guards-as-terror-group-says-berlin/>

43. See <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/ntnl-scrtr/cntr-trrrsm/lstd-ntts/crrnt-lstd-ntts-en.aspx>

44. See <https://globalnews.ca/news/9305206/iran-revolutionary-guard-listed-terrorist-group-ontario/>



# CASE STUDY: PROSCRIPTION OF HIZBALLAH

By way of case study, it may be instructive to consider the proscription of Hizballah, an antisemitic genocidal terrorist organisation based in Lebanon.

In February 2019, at the request of Campaign Against Antisemitism and others in the Jewish community, Hizballah was completely proscribed by the Home Secretary, the Rt Hon. Sajid Javid MP, with the support of the Foreign Secretary, the Rt Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP.

Until then, the British Government had distinguished between Hizballah's "military wing" and "political wing", even though Hizballah mocked the Government and said that no such distinction exists. The loophole enabled brazen shows of support for Hizballah, including at previous "Al Quds Day" parades where pro-Hizballah supporters marched through central London waving Hizballah flags and placards with the caption: "We Are All Hizballah".



IRGC-backed terrorist Hizballah forces perform Nazi salutes at a parade

While in previous years the march had been a pro-Hizballah festival, with marchers festooned in Hizballah flags, no support for Hizballah was visible at the 2019 parade following the proscription. The law was also changed to

allow police officers to seize flags or clothing bearing the insignia of terrorist organisations, and also arrest anybody who publishes photographs of them. Significantly, it also meant that Hizballah assets in the UK could be frozen, which HM Treasury did in 2020.



Flag of IRGC-backed terror group Hizballah displayed on the streets of London, a practice that is now outlawed

The full proscription of Hizballah is a useful precedent for the proscription of the IRGC. After all, both are antisemitic Islamist terrorist organisations based in the Middle East but active worldwide, and both enjoy extensive support from the Iranian Government.

Just as the proscription of Hizballah sent a powerful message to the Jewish community – and Islamists – that antisemitism and terrorism will not be tolerated in the UK, so would the proscription of the IRGC, particularly at a time of a record-breaking surge in antisemitism in Britain.



**ZERO  
TOLERANCE  
— FOR —  
ANTISEMITES**



**צדק צדק תרדף**

**JUSTICE, JUSTICE, YOU SHALL PURSUE**

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