

The Rt. Hon. Rishi Sunak MP
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA



All-Party Britain-Israel
Parliamentary Group

19th April 2023

Dear Prime Minister,

British-Iranian Vahid Beheshti has been on hunger strike for more than 55 days outside the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. Vahid has shown remarkable dignity and strength throughout his protest and has widespread support from parliamentarians who share his sense of urgency in the need to proscribe the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terror organisation.

The IRGC has been systematically destabilising the Middle East since the Islamic Revolution, killing thousands, and expanding the Iranian regime's malign hegemonic ambitions. This threat is no longer thousands of miles away because the IRGC is now openly operating on our own shores. A growing list of activities have been made public and will be of grave concern to many across our country.

The list of reasons for proscription are many. From active assassination plots revealed by MI5 and collection of intelligence on British-Jewish targets using UK-based criminal gangs, through to its violent intimidation on journalists operating in the UK and radicalisation at British Islamic centres. The group has cruelly held British nationals as state hostages and killed many more.

Our closest allies across Europe have identified the same pattern of malicious activity. Terror attacks in Germany and foiled terror attacks in Greece and France, where a group of cross-party British MPs had been targeted by an IRGC bomb plot. It even has links to illicit drugs trafficking onto European shores.

The Government's decision to proscribe the Hamas and Hezbollah terror groups were important steps in combatting the threat of extremism and terrorism, but the UK can ill afford to stop there. The IRGC is, after all, the primary financier, supplier, and trainer of these dangerous groups. It is incumbent upon the Government to go after the parent organisation.

Proscription of the IRGC has deep support across Parliament. MPs unanimously endorsed a motion earlier this year calling for proscription. Peers from all parties and none have also joined the efforts to end the IRGC's ability to operate in the UK.

We welcome your comments in December that your Home Secretary and yourself would "utilise the full range of tools" at your disposal to combat the IRGC. As the threat from the IRGC in the UK and abroad intensifies, this must mean taking the crucial step of proscribing the IRGC now.

Yours,

Bob Blackman MP
(Chair, Britain-Israel APPG)

Lord Turnberg
(Co-Chair, Britain-Israel APPG)

Rt. Hon. Nigel Adams MP
Baroness Altmann
Lord Alton of Liverpool
Caroline Ansell MP
Rt. Hon. Lord Arbuthnot of
Edrom
Sarah Atherton MP
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Michael Fabricant MP
Tim Farron MP
Simon Fell MP
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Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Goodwill
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Chris Green MP
Jonathan Gullis MP
Stephen Hammond MP
The Rt. Revd and Rt. Hon.
Lord Harries of Pentregarth
Lord Harrington of Watford

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Peckham
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Baroness Henig CBE DL
Lord Hintze
Rt. Hon. Dame Margaret
Hodge MP DBE
Sharon Hodgson MP
Philip Hollobone MP
John Howell MP OBE
Tom Hunt MP
Lord Jackson of Peterborough
Christine Jardine MP
Rt. Hon. Ranil Jayawardena
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Mark Jenkinson MP
Rt. Hon. Dame Diana Johnson
MP DBE
Rt. Hon. Lord Johnson of
Marylebone
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