

IRGC IN THE UK



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info@azadi.network

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What is the IRGC?

Following the 1979 Revolution in Iran, the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) was formed in May 1979 by the order of Ruhollah Khomeini, the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI). The IRGC immediately became the ruthless yet unofficial regime exclusively responsible for the massacre, torture and brutal suppression of dissidents and political rivals to Iran's theocrats.

Unlike Iran's Army which is tasked with protecting Iran's borders and its territorial integrity, the IRGC's primary role is to protect the political system; to promote the theocratic regime's religious fervour domestically and to fulfil its expansionist revolutionary ideas globally.

Why IRGC is the greatest threat to the UK's national security?

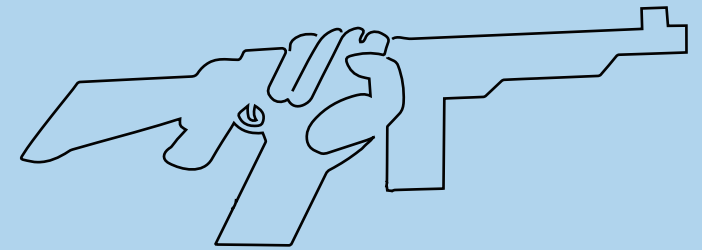
The fifth branch of the IRGC was named Quds Force, the Arabic name for Jerusalem, to represent one of its main duties which is to annihilate Israel. The Quds Force activities exclusively aimed at creating and supporting terrorist sleeper cells have now reached UK soil. In 2015, the Sunday Telegraph reported a 2015 raid by UK intelligence services on four properties in North London used by Hezbollah to store explosive materials. The bombing plot was foiled in autumn 2015 months after the JCPOA was signed, which indicates that any attempt to ease tensions with Iran will not result

in changing its hostile behaviours. The Quds Force operation in the UK has only expanded. In 2019, the Sunday Times reported that the dissidents were being threatened by Iranian armed agents on the streets of Scotland. Most recently, the chief commander of the IRGC, Major General Hossein Salami, proudly claimed the threats against the London-based media outlet Iran International that suspended its operation in the UK as work of the IRGC and boasted that this indicates "how far the Islamic Revolutions realm of power and field of infiltration and radius of influence has extended".

The IRGC propaganda apparatus has been actively trying to radicalise the Muslim community in Europe and particularly in the UK by publicly propagating jihadist ideas through its overseas Islamic centres and Islamic Student associations. The recent report by the Jewish Chronicles reveals the deep ties between the UK branch of the Islamic Student Association and the IRGC top commanders such as Mohsen Yekta who was hosted by this association to deny the Holocaust and encourage the audience to prepare themselves for "raising the flag of Jihad" and "join the apocalyptic war on Jews". These activities not only greatly increase the risk of emerging waves of Islamist extremism and subsequently higher risk of terrorism, but could also be the preliminary stage for a sectarian war between religious groups, especially Shia and Sunni communities inside the UK.

IRGC has largely invested in all types of proxy war and in doing so it deliberately breaks

International Humanitarian Law. It has become the closest military ally and main supplier for every group, organisation or state that is engaged in an unlawful military confrontation with the West. It has actively plotted and funded the groups and states that deliberately target civilians. Currently, the IRGC is the only entity in Iran specifically tasked with supplying Russia with deadly drones used to target civilians in Ukraine. With the expiry of the UN sanctions limiting Iran's missile program and arms trade, the IRGC's ability to supply outlaw states and terrorist organisations will increase tremendously posing an even greater threat to the UK's national interests.



Recommendations:

- Proscribe IRGC through an affirmative resolution process.
- Amend the National Security Act to include the specific type of state bodies created primarily to engage in hostile activities, in breach of International Humanitarian Law, deliberately targeting civilians or activities that indirectly but deliberately lead to targeting civilians to be concerned in terrorism.