



Date : 15 October 2024

Unique Client Identifier (UCI):



Application Number:

Winnipeg, MB

Dear

This refers to your application for permanent residence in Canada, received on October 5, 2021. Principal applicant in this application is (UCI).

A procedural fairness letter was sent to the applicant on August 13, 2024, advising that your application for permanent residence may be refused, as it appears may be inadmissible to Canada, under section 34(1)(f) for (b), (b.1) and (c) of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (IRPA).

Along with all your previous submissions, your reply from September 7, 2024 concerning the possible inadmissibility has been considered.

On October 15, 2024, a representative of the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), senior immigration officer AG25169, reviewed your application. The officer determined that is inadmissible under section 34(1)(f) for (b), (b.1) and (c) of the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (IRPA):

33. The facts that constitute inadmissibility under sections 34 to 37 include facts arising from omissions and, unless otherwise provided, include facts for which there are reasonable grounds to believe that they have occurred, are occurring or may occur.

34. (1) A permanent resident or a foreign national is inadmissible on security grounds for [...]

(b) engaging in or instigating the subversion by force of any government;

(b.1) engaging in an act of subversion against a democratic government, institution or process as they are understood in Canada;

(c) engaging in terrorism;

[...]

(f) being a member of an organization that there are reasonable grounds to believe engages, has engaged or will engage in acts referred to in paragraph (a), (b), (b.1) or (c).

Therefore, your application for permanent residence in Canada is **refused**.

If you require clarification or more information, or you wish to provide a change of address or other information, please visit the IRCC Web site at <https://ircc.canada.ca/>, or contact the Client Support Centre (toll-free) at 1-888-242-2100.

(c) engaging in terrorism;

[...]

[...]

(f) being a member of an organization that there are reasonable grounds to believe engages, has engaged or will engage in acts referred to in paragraph (a), (b), (b.1) or (c).

After a thorough review of your immigration history, permanent resident (PR) application and submissions, I have identified concerns related to your self-reported mandatory military service with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in Iran.¹ According to the “Details of Military Service” table you completed on October 27, 2022, you declared that you were a conscript from August 22, 2012 to October 21, 2012 as a soldier under training, and from October 21, 2012 to May 22, 2014 as a soldier with the rank of command sergeant major. As a command sergeant major, you indicated that your duties were checking the sign-in and sign out sheets of personnel, answering phone calls and data entry. You also indicated that your unit was located at [REDACTED] University in Tehran, Iran and Mashhad, Iran.

The IRGC was formed following Iran’s 1979 revolution and was created to protect the new government. According to the Council on Foreign Relations website, the IRGC has since grown to become one of the most powerful paramilitary organizations in the Middle East.² The IRGC is currently made up of more traditional military forces which include the ground forces, the aerospace forces, and the naval forces, in addition to unconventional warfare, cover operations, and intelligence forces.³ All IRGC units operate under the leadership of the IRGC commander, who is under the command of the Supreme Leader of Iran, Ali Khamenei.

As of 1999, the IRGC has been known to provide funding, arms, training, and planning assistance to a variety of terror groups. These include groups that have been listed as terrorist entities by Public Safety Canada, such as Hamas, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) and

¹ Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), April 15, 2019. “Counter Terrorism Designations; IRGC Foreign Terrorist Organization Designation”, Office of Foreign Assets Control (treasury.gov). Accessed May 3, 2024. https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20190415_33.

² Gollom, Mark. November 4, 2022. “The U.S. did it. The EU might. Why Canada won't put Iran's revolutionary guard on its terrorist list.” CBC News. Accessed May 3, 2024. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/iran-irgc-terrorist-list-1.6637869>.

³ Banerjee, Udit. 2015. “Revolutionary Intelligence: The Expanding Intelligence Role of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps.” Journal of Strategic Security, Accessed May 3, 2024. <https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/jss/vol8/iss3/6/>.



Lebanon's Hezbollah.⁴ The IRGC was designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization by the United States (U.S.) on April 15, 2019.⁵ The European Union (E.U.) has been exploring the possibility of adding the IRGC as a whole to the bloc's list of terrorist organizations.⁶

On December 12, 2012, the Government of Canada added the IRGC Quds Force to the list of terrorist entities.⁷ Established in 1990, the IRGC-QF is a special forces element tasked with unconventional warfare roles and is known to be involved in providing assistance and training to various militant organizations around the world.⁸

On October 7, 2022, Prime Minister (PM) Justin Trudeau and Deputy PM Chrystia Freeland announced Canada's intent to implement measures to respond to Iran's ongoing human rights violations and threats to regional peace and security. The Deputy PM called the IRGC a "terrorist organization" and revealed new sanctions on the group's members. On May 8, 2024, the Canadian House of Commons voted unanimously in support of a motion to add the IRGC to an official list of terrorist organizations.⁹

On June 19, 2024, the Government of Canada added the IRGC as a terrorist entity under the *Criminal Code*, as the Government of Canada found that based on their actions, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the IRGC has knowingly carried out, attempted to carry out, participated in or facilitated a terrorist activity, or has knowingly acted on behalf of, at the direction of, or in association with an entity that has knowingly carried out terrorist activity.¹⁰

⁴ Foundation for Defense of Democracies. October 26, 2023. " Hamas Fighters Trained with Iranian Forces before Israel Attack." Accessed May 3, 2024. <https://www.fdd.org/analysis/2023/10/26/hamas-fighters-trained-with-iranian-forces-before-israel-attack/>; U.S. Department of State, April 2000. "Patterns of Global Terrorism 1999." Accessed on May 10, 2024. <https://1997-2001.state.gov/global/terrorism/1999report/patterns.pdf>.

⁵ United States Department of State. "Foreign Terrorist Organizations." Accessed May 3, 2024. <https://www.state.gov/foreign-terrorist-organizations/>.

⁶ Meijer, Bart H., and Ingrid Melander. January 23, 2023. "EU imposes new Iran sanctions, won't brand Guards 'terrorists' for now." Reuters. Accessed May 3, 2024. <https://www.reuters.com/world/eu-says-it-cannot-brand-irans-guards-terror-group-before-court-ruling-2023-01-23/>.

⁷ Public Safety Canada. "Currently Listed Entities." Accessed May 3, 2024. <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/ntnl-scrtr/cntr-trrrsm/lstd-ntts/crrnt-lstd-ntts-en.aspx#35>.

⁸ United States Defense Intelligence Agency. 2019. "Iran: Military Power." Accessed May 3, 2024. https://www.dia.mil/Portals/110/Images/News/Military_Powers_Publications/Iran_Military_Power_LR.pdf

⁹ CBC News. May 8, 2024. "MPs vote unanimously in support of designating Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps a terrorist group." Accessed May 27, 2024. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/mps-support-designating-irgc-terrorist-group-1.7198181>

¹⁰ Public Safety Canada. June 19, 2024. "Government of Canada lists the IRGC as a terrorist entity." Accessed August 9, 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2024/06/government-of-canada-lists-the-irgc-as-a-terrorist-entity.html>.



Based on the information before me which includes open source evidence, the relevant legislation, and case law, I have reasonable grounds to believe that the IRGC has engaged in acts of subversion against a democratic government, institution or process as understood in Canada, as well as acts of terrorism pursuant to paragraph 34 (b.1) and (c) of the IRPA. I also have reasonable grounds to believe that your military service with the IRGC satisfies the criteria for membership as understood in Canadian jurisprudence under paragraph 34(1)(f) for (1.b) and (c) of the IRPA.

To assist me with my assessment, I ask that you answer the following questions in writing. If you are able to substantiate your statements with news reports, academic journal articles or other documents, please feel free to do so. Please answer the questions truthfully, giving as much detail as possible.

- 1) Please provide a detailed job list for your employment / school activities between 2002 and 2020.
- 2) Please clearly outline the details of your military service with IRGC (dates of service, your rank, your title, your duties, your commanding officers, your location(s) and if applicable the number of people you supervised).
- 3) Please describe how you were recruited; i.e., how were you assigned to the IRGC?
- 4) What branch of the IRGC were you assigned to (e.g. the ground forces, the aerospace forces, the naval forces, and intelligence forces)?
- 5) Did you serve in IRGC voluntarily?
- 6) Did you take steps to avoid being conscripted? If so, please describe what steps you took, in as much detail as possible.
- 7) Did you have any personal choice as to which branch of the army you served in?
- 8) What were your living conditions (salary, food and housing)?
- 9) Did you have a desk job? If so, why were you assigned a desk job?
- 10) Please describe your role, daily activities and responsibilities while serving in the IRGC.
- 11) Did you undergo basic combat training? If so, where did you complete it?
- 12) What did you learn during your military service?
- 13) Did you participate in combat duty?
- 14) Did you carry a firearm?
- 15) What did you know about IRGC prior to entering military service?
- 16) How did you contribute to the success and operations of the IRGC?
- 17) What is your current involvement with the IRGC? If you are no longer involved with the IRGC, please explain when you left and why?
- 18) How soon did you leave the IRGC after your mandatory service was over?



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- 19) Did you make any attempt to escape from your military duties prior to the official end of your mandatory military service?
- 20) Did you attempt to work in the regular forces (Artesh)?
- 21) If applicable, please clearly outline your father's military background.

Pursuant to subsection 21(1) of the IRPA, in order to become a permanent resident you must satisfy to an officer that you are not inadmissible to Canada. Before a decision is made on your application, you may provide any information about your possible inadmissibility that you would like to have considered. Any submissions must be received by this office within 30 days of the date of this letter. **Any documents must be original and accompanied by an official translation if they are not in English or French. Please reply directly to this email and do not modify the subject line.**

If we do not receive information from you **within 30 days of this letter**, that is by **September 13, 2024**, a decision on your application will be made based on the information on your file, and your application may be refused.

If you require clarification or additional information or wish to inform us of a change of address, consult the CIC Web site at www.cic.gc.ca or contact the Call Centre (toll free) at 1-888-242-2100.

The client number in the upper left corner of this letter is your personal identification number and it provides access to information on your file. For your own protection, do not let any other person use this number.

Sincerely,

AG25169
Senior Immigration Officer
Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada
HM Montreal
1025 St-Jacques
Montreal, QC H3C 1G8



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