



Senator the Hon Penny Wong
Minister for Foreign Affairs

MC22-008970

Mr Alex Greenwich MP
Member for Sydney
ElectorateOffice.Sydney@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Greenwich

Thank you for your letter regarding the ongoing protests in Iran.

The Australian Government condemns the deadly and disproportionate use of force against protestors in Iran, following the tragic death of 22-year-old Kurdish woman Mahsa (Jina) Amini. We most recently raised our concerns regarding the circumstances surrounding her death in custody and Iran's response to the protests directly with the Iranian Embassy in Canberra on 13 October 2022.

I have been alarmed by reports that hundreds of people have been killed and many more injured, including dozens of children, as a result of the heavy-handed measures Iranian authorities have implemented to crack-down on ongoing protests. Australia supports the right of the Iranian people to protest peacefully and calls on the Iranian authorities to exercise restraint in response to ongoing demonstrations.

I released a joint statement with Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, the Minister for Finance, Minister for the Public Service, and Minister for Women, on 27 September 2022, condemning the violent crackdown in Iran and expressing support for Iranian women and girls. I made additional public statements on Twitter, expressing concern, on 29 September 2022 and 10 October 2022. I also met with representatives of the Iranian community in Australia and Amnesty International following protests in Canberra on 27 September 2022.

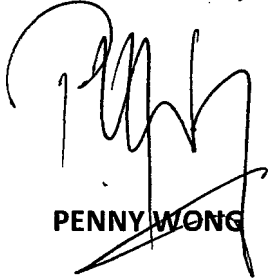
Australia also signed on to a joint statement at the 51st Session of the UN Human Rights Council on 30 September 2022, denouncing the excessive use of force by the Iranian authorities. We have also made our views clear through a number of other multilateral statements.

Regarding the imposition of sanctions, Australia keeps its sanctions regime under regular review. The Australian Government does not comment publicly or speculate on potential sanctions.

Regarding recalling Australia's Ambassador to Iran, the Australian Government considers embassies and diplomatic staff to be essential for maintaining official channels of communication between governments.

Australia stands with Iranian women and girls in their struggle for equality and empowerment, and we call on Iran to cease its oppression of women. We are committed to promoting gender equality, women's empowerment, and ending violence against women and girls worldwide.

Yours sincerely



PENNY WONG

28 OCT 2022