OCTOBER 1, 2026

Association to Defend Freedom & Human Rights in Iran – Australia



Your life begins to change when your excuses end and your actions begin.

ANNUAL REPORT

Reporting Period: November 2025 – October 2026

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Introduction

The year 2026 was marked by significant political, military, economic and social developments around the world. Continuing conflicts, growing geopolitical tensions and competition between global powers created uncertainty and placed considerable pressure on communities internationally.

Iran experienced an especially turbulent period. Economic hardship, inflation, the declining value of the national currency and widespread public dissatisfaction contributed to growing unrest. The nationwide protests that began in late December 2025 and intensified in January 2026 were met with a severe government crackdown, widespread arrests and extensive restrictions on internet access and communications.

The situation became even more complex following the outbreak of military conflict between the United States and Israel, on the one hand, and the regime, on the other, on 28 February 2026. The death of Ali Khamenei on the first day of the attacks marked a major development in Iran's political circumstances.

Throughout these events, the Association maintained its commitment to defending human rights, supporting the Iranian people's aspirations for democracy and promoting a future for Iran based on freedom, equality, peace and respect for human dignity.

Between November 2025 and October 2026, the Association continued its work across several areas. These included public exhibitions, information and book stalls, campaigns against executions, parliamentary briefings, international gatherings, presenting of submissions to Australian parliamentary inquiries, and cooperation with multicultural communities. Particular attention was also given to strengthening solidarity with different sections of the Iranian community, including our Kurdish compatriots.

The year also brought profound personal losses. The passing of Ms Kobra Mokhtar, a respected leader and valued friend, and the execution of six political prisoners, including Vahid Bani-Amirian and his companions, reminded us of the human cost of defending freedom and human dignity.

The shocking terrorist attack at Bondi Beach in December 2025 also highlighted the importance of confronting extremism, protecting community safety and preserving Australia's social cohesion.

Amid these challenges, the Association maintained a strong public presence. During the reporting period, its members participated in public activities on more than **151 days** and collected over **18,000 signatures** from Australian citizens supporting the democratic aspirations of the Iranian people. The Association also strengthened its relationships with parliamentarians, trade unions, human rights organisations and community groups.

This report recognises the dedication of members and volunteers, the generosity of supporters and the importance of continued cooperation in defending freedom and human rights.

Editorial Committee- Association for the Defence of Freedom and Human Rights in Iran–Australia

1. The Association's Activities During the Year

November 2025 – Commemorating the November 2019 Uprising

The reporting period began with a renewed focus on public awareness campaigns and the commemoration of those who risked or sacrificed their lives during the November 2019 uprising in Iran.

The Association organised public activities to highlight government repression, defend the right of citizens to protest and keep the memory of the victims alive. Opposition to executions and the defence of political prisoners remained central themes throughout these activities.

December 2025 – Training, Community Engagement and the Bondi Beach Attack

In December, the Association focused partly on strengthening members' knowledge and capabilities. Several members participated in training programmes and university-based sessions and successfully completed a relevant "**workshop on Engaging with UN Anti- Torture Mechanisms".**

The month also saw growing economic and social protests in Iran, as the consequences of the government's economic policies continued to affect different sections of society.

The terrorist attack at Bondi Beach on 14 December 2025 had a profound impact on the Australian community. The Association expressed its concern about extremism and the safety of all communities and supported an independent investigation of the attack. Further details are provided in Section 3.

January 2026 – Nationwide Protests and the Government Crackdown in Iran

A strike that began at Tehran's Grand Bazaar on 28 December 2025 quickly developed into a broader protest movement, spreading to cities across Iran.



On 8 and 9 January 2026, the authorities imposed extensive internet and communications restrictions, severely limiting the ability of people inside Iran to communicate with the outside world. These measures coincided with an intensified crackdown by security forces.

Reports emerged of thousands of protesters being killed, large numbers of arrests and many people suffering serious injuries. The communications shutdown made independent verification difficult, and the full extent of the casualties and arrests remained subject to further investigation.

In response, the Association organised an in-person and online briefing in cooperation with, and hosted by, the Independent Education Union of Australia, NSW / ACT Branch, on 20th January 2026.

The special guest was Mr Alireza Jafarzadeh, a representative of the National Council of Resistance of Iran's office in the United States.

The meeting attracted parliamentarians, trade union leaders, representatives of human rights organisations and community activists. It provided an opportunity to discuss the crackdown, political developments in Iran and the need for international support for the Iranian people.

February 2026 – Historical Commemorations and International Engagement

February is significant in the historical and political memory of the Iranian community. Activities during the month included commemorations of the revolution against the monarchy, the sacrifices of Ashraf and Mousa on 19 Bahman, and the Siahkal incident.

Some Association members also participated in preparatory activities and coordination for the annual Iranian gathering scheduled to take place in Berlin on 7 February.

On 28 February, military conflict began between the United States and Israel, on one side, and the Ayatollahs, on the other. The death of Ali Khamenei on the first day of the attacks marked a major turning point.

The Association maintained that war brings serious human and economic consequences for ordinary people. It continued to emphasise that Iran's future should be determined by the free will of its people and based on democracy and peace.

March 2026 – Nowruz, Parliamentary Engagement and Community Cooperation

March included several important activities:



- Celebrating Nowruz on 21 March and participating in Iranian community events.
- Organising a briefing for Federal Parliamentarians on 25 March.
- Holding a protest outside the Embassy of the Islamic Republic, highlighting concerns about its role in the government's repressive and surveillance activities.
- Continuing weekly exhibitions and book stalls.
- Expanding cooperation with multicultural communities.

The Association also experienced the loss of Ms Kobra Mokhtar, a valued friend. Her contribution and memory are recognised in Section 2.









April and May 2026 – International Activities and Solidarity with Kurdish Friends

Despite cold weather, rain and other difficult conditions, members continued the Association's weekly public activities.

Some members travelled to the United States to participate in an international summit of Iranians- Americans in Washington, joining other activists and organisers.



During this period, the execution of six political prisoners, including Vahid Bani-Amirian and Abolhassan Montazer, was a major concern for the Association. The case is discussed in detail in Section 2.

In mid-April, the Association organised a joint event involving different sections of the Iranian community, including Kurdish compatriots. This was an important step towards strengthening solidarity and cooperation among communities that share a commitment to freedom, human rights and a democratic future for Iran.

June 2026 – Participation in the Global Iranian Gathering in Paris

In June, Association members participated in the annual gathering of Iranians in Paris, which brought together participants from many different countries.

The event provided an opportunity to highlight the aspirations of the Iranian people, defend political prisoners and call for democratic change.

A dozen members travelled to Paris and personally met the substantial costs of travel and accommodation. Some also devoted close to 30 days to preparatory activities, coordination and campaign support.

Parliamentary Support for the Iran Freedom Statement 2026

During this period, the Association's Political Committee secured the support of a majority in one of Australia's parliamentary chambers for the Iran Freedom Statement 2026. A good number of parliamentarians from different states and electorates also supported the statement.

This was an important achievement, demonstrating the Association's growing capacity to build parliamentary relationships and bring the aspirations of the Iranian people to the attention of Australia's elected representatives.

July to September 2026 – Parliamentary Activities and Human Rights Advocacy

This period saw further expansion of the Association's parliamentary and international engagement.

Motion in the New South Wales Parliament

One of the Association's significant achievements was the tabling of a motion in the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in support of the Iranian people's aspirations.

The motion stated:

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY – NOTICE OF MOTION

Mr Speaker, I move that this House notes:

1. The continuing unrest in Iran.
2. Supports the Iranian people's aspiration for a democratic republic as elaborated in the Ten-Point Plan.

3. Encourages an Iran that values gender equality, the separation of religion and state, and a non-nuclear future.

Date: 13 July 2026

Federal Parliamentary Briefing on Executions

In August, as executions in Iran continued to cause serious concern, the Association organised a briefing for Federal Parliamentarians.

The briefing aimed to raise awareness of the situation facing political prisoners, explain the scale of human rights violations and encourage parliamentarians to support more effective action against the growing number of executions.

United Nations-Related Activities

During the annual session of the United Nations General Assembly, Association members, in cooperation with Iranian and Iranian-American communities, participated in conferences, meetings and related side events.

These activities provided opportunities to raise human rights concerns about Iran, exchange views with international activists and strengthen relationships with relevant organisations and influential individuals.

Australian Parliamentary and Security Inquiries

During this period, the Australian Senate and other parliamentary bodies invited members of the public, particularly communities facing security-related vulnerabilities, to provide evidence, reports and observations to assist in examining security threats and developing preventive measures.

Association members prepared and lodged relevant submissions to ensure that the experiences and concerns of the Iranian-Australian community were brought to the attention of decision-makers.

New South Wales Parliament Meeting Against Executions

On 21 September, the Association organised a meeting at the Parliament of New South Wales to condemn executions in Iran and draw attention to the situation facing political prisoners.

October 2026 – Walk Against the Death Penalty

In October, the Association organised a public action to mark the World Day Against the Death Penalty.

In previous years, the Association's activities had generally taken the form of meetings and forums. This year, drawing inspiration from initiatives organised by Iranian associations in Europe, members decided to hold a public walk and protest.

The event was well received and provided an opportunity to communicate opposition to executions and support for prisoners facing death sentences directly to the wider community.

The month also brought the sad news of the passing of Mr Ali Takalo Abedin, a loyal friend and supporter whose contribution is recognised in Section 9.

2. Special Human Rights Cases

2.1. The Passing of Ms Kobra Mokhtar

The passing of Ms Kobra Mokhtar in late March 2026 was one of the saddest events of the year for the Association.



“Ms Kobra Mokhtar was a courageous and determined leader whose decades of commitment, strong sense of responsibility and remarkable resilience, even in the face of serious health challenges, reflected her unwavering dedication to her cause and her fellow campaigners.



Her significance to us extended beyond that of a friend or community leader. She represented the contribution that committed and responsible individuals make to sustaining social and humanitarian activities.

Her passing was particularly difficult at a time when the Association was managing extensive responsibilities and activities. Nevertheless, members remained determined to continue their work, inspired by the values of commitment and responsibility that she represented.

We honour her memory as a valued member of our wider community. Her name will remain associated with compassion, responsibility and the aspiration for a better future.

2.2. The Execution of Six Political Prisoners



The execution of six political prisoners between 30 March and 4 April 2026 was one of the most serious human rights cases during the reporting period.

The six men were:

Akbar (Shahrokh) Daneshvarkar- Mohammad Taghi Sangdehi- Babak Alipour- Pouya Ghobadi- Vahid Bani-Amirian and Abolhassan Montazer.

The first four were executed on 30 and 31 March 2026. Vahid Bani-Amirian and Abolhassan Montazer were executed on 4 April.

These executions took place amid serious concerns about the judicial proceedings, alleged torture, the use of forced confessions and the denial of a fair trial.

According to Amnesty International, the men had been tried and sentenced to death in a case involving allegations of membership in the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK). Amnesty International raised concerns about the use of confessions allegedly obtained under torture and serious violations of fair trial standards.

There were also grave concerns about the secret nature of the executions, inadequate notification to families, the denial of final visits and the lack of sufficient information provided to families and lawyers about the prisoners' whereabouts and circumstances.

Videos released of the six men conveyed their courage, determination, honesty and willingness to stand by their beliefs. For many, they became symbols of resistance to religious dictatorship and the pursuit of freedom and human dignity.

This case was not simply about the fate of six individuals. It raised fundamental questions concerning the right to life, the prohibition of torture, access to independent legal representation, fair trial guarantees and the responsibility of governments to protect the lives of their citizens.

The Association strongly condemns these executions and calls for independent international investigations into the violations of the prisoners' rights, accountability for those responsible and an end to the death penalty in Iran.

3. The Safety of the Iranian-Australian Community and Combating Extremism

The safety of the Iranian-Australian community and the need to address threats arising from extremism, fundamentalism and intimidation were important concerns for the Association during the reporting period.



The terrorist attack at Bondi Beach on 14 December 2025 demonstrated that extremism is not merely a matter of foreign policy or developments in the Middle East. It directly threatens the safety of Australian citizens and the cohesion of Australian society.

The Association supported an independent investigation of the attack and the introduction of effective measures to prevent similar tragedies.

The Association also emphasised that efforts to combat terrorism and fundamentalism must not create divisions between migrant communities or undermine the rights of citizens.

Lasting security depends on the rule of law, justice, accountability and respect for the equal rights of all members of society.

4. Working with Multicultural Communities



One of the year's important achievements was the expansion of cooperation with Australia's communities, including multicultural communities. These relationships created valuable opportunities for mutual understanding, the exchange of experiences and the development of joint activities.

The joint gathering with Kurdish compatriots in April was another positive step towards strengthening relationships within the Iranian community.

The Association believes that a democratic future for Iran cannot be achieved without recognising the equal rights of all nationalities, ethnic groups and cultural communities.

Respect for the language, culture, identity, civil rights and political rights of Kurds and other communities in Iran must be an integral part of any democratic vision for the country's future.

Cooperation with our Kurdish friends should be based on mutual respect, the independence of organisations, shared humanitarian values and a common commitment to freedom and justice.



We believe that sustained cooperation of this kind can build trust between different communities and provide a stronger foundation for solidarity and a democratic future.





5. Parliamentary and International Engagement

Parliamentary engagement remained one of the Association's most important areas of work during the reporting year.

The principal activities included:

- Preparing reports and lodging submissions with parliamentary inquiries relating to security and counter-terrorism.
- Organising briefings for Federal Parliamentarians on developments in Iran.
- Holding a y meeting in the New South Wales Parliament to condemn executions.
- Supporting the passage of a motion in the New South Wales Parliament in support of the Iranian people.
- Securing the support of many MPs for the Iran Freedom Statement 2026.
- Participating in activities associated with the United Nations General Assembly.
- Maintaining contact with trade unions, church, human rights organisations and civil and political representatives.

These activities demonstrate the Association's growing capacity to move beyond public awareness campaigns and to participate more actively in formal parliamentary processes and policy discussions.



6. Harassment, Threats and Security Concerns

Throughout the year, members and activists of the Association continued to experience harassment from some individuals and groups supporting the Islamic Republic, as well as some supporters of Reza Pahlavi.

Reported incidents included provocative behaviour, interference at public events and hostile conduct towards activists.

The Association was required to devote time and resources to recording, documenting and following up on these incidents.

In addressing these matters, it is important to distinguish between directly observed behaviour, reports from members, documented evidence and assessments concerning possible links between individuals, foreign institutions or organised networks.

Police involvement and follow-up action helped reduce harassment in some cases, although the problem continues.

The safety of members, volunteers and participants in public activities will remain a priority.

7. The Association’s Achievements

The reporting year was one of the Association's most productive periods in terms of public engagement, member participation and social and parliamentary achievements.

Quantitative Achievements

- **More than 151 days of public activity:** Including exhibitions, book stalls and public actions against executions, conducted in Sydney.





- **More than 18,000 supportive signatures:** Collected from Australian citizens in support of the aspirations of the Iranian people.
- **International participation:** Attendance at gatherings and conferences in Berlin, Washington, New York and Paris.

- **Parliamentary engagement:** Several programs, briefings and meetings at Federal and state levels.
- **Parliamentary submissions:** Participation in inquiries concerning human rights and security issues.



Qualitative Achievements

The Association also made progress in several important areas:

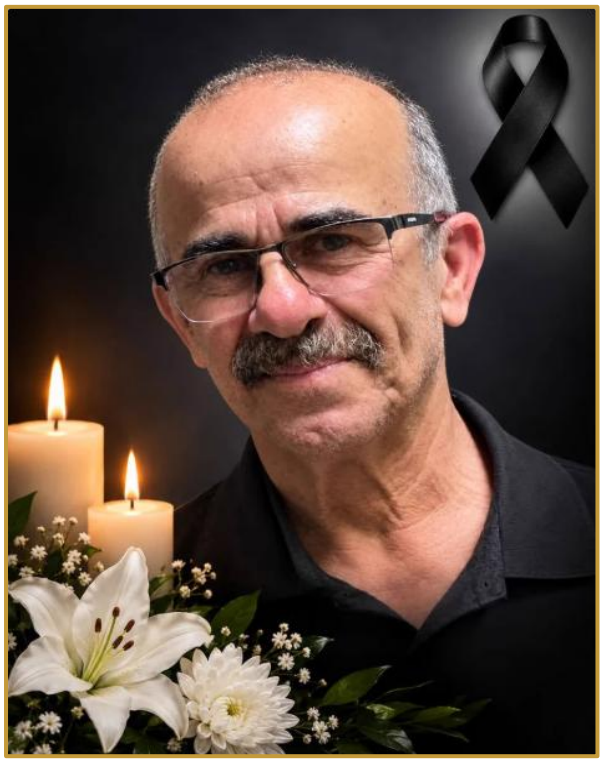
1. Strengthening relationships with Australian parliamentarians.
2. Expanding cooperation with trade unions and human rights organisations.
3. Building stronger relationships with First Nations and multicultural communities.
4. Increasing cooperation with different sections of the Iranian community, particularly Kurdish compatriots.
5. Expanding participation in international gatherings and programmes.
6. Improving members' skills and awareness through training opportunities.
7. Strengthening the Association's capacity to document and follow up on harassment and security-related concerns.

Remembering Ali Abedin Raeitpour: A Loyal Friend and Dedicated Companion

“While I am still here with you, show me kindness;
Tomorrow, when I have turned to dust, what good will tears of regret do?”

امروز که در دست توام مرحمتی کن فردا که شوم خاک, چه سود! اشک ندامت؟

— Hafez



On 28 October, our association was once again saddened by the loss of one of its valued members and devoted supporters. Mr Ali Abedin Raeitpour was a kind-hearted, caring and responsible person who consistently supported the association and its members from Brazil.

Throughout his involvement, he generously contributed his time and efforts, particularly in assisting with translations, correspondence and other essential matters.

His selfless support and ongoing commitment played an important role in helping the association carry out its work. His contribution was not simply practical; it reflected a genuine spirit of solidarity,

dedication and commitment to our shared values. The loss of someone so loyal and generous is deeply felt.

However, his memory will live on through the work he contributed and his commitment to the ideals of freedom, justice and human dignity.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and loved ones.

As we remember him and all those who have walked this path alongside us and are no longer with us, we reaffirm our commitment to upholding the values they stood for and continuing the work to which they dedicated themselves.

May his memory be honoured, and may his legacy live on.

8. Members, Financial Contributions and Community Support

The commitment and dedication of members have been central to the continuation and success of the Association's activities.

Throughout the twelve-month reporting period, members continued their work despite difficult weather conditions, social and political pressures and considerable financial costs.

Many activities were made possible through voluntary contributions and the direct financial support of members.

The Association also wishes to express its sincere gratitude to its members, Australian citizens, Australians of Iranian heritage and other supporters who made generous financial contributions.

Without this financial and community support, many of the Association's activities would not have been possible.

These contributions represented more than financial assistance. They reflected trust, solidarity and a shared belief in the importance of defending the rights of the Iranian people.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who contributed in a way.

9. Conclusion and Acknowledgements

The year 2026 was a period of considerable activity, responsibility and achievement for the Association. It was also a year marked by personal losses, difficult challenges and serious human rights concerns.

Despite complex political and military developments, security pressures and the significant costs associated with community activities, the Association maintained a public presence on more than 151 days, collected over 18,000 supportive signatures and expanded its parliamentary, community and international relationships.

The motion in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly in support of the Iranian people, the parliamentary support secured for the Iran Freedom Statement 2026, the submission to parliamentary inquiries, and the organisation of briefings and public events all demonstrate the Association's continuing commitment and growing capacity.

The passing of Ms Kobra Mokhtar and Mr Abedin, together with the execution of Vahid Bani-Amirian and his five companions, reminded us of the human cost of defending freedom, justice and dignity.

The Association believes that Iran's future must be determined by the free will of its people and founded on democracy, equality before the law, respect for ethnic and cultural diversity, the separation of religion and state, and peaceful relations with the international community.

In the coming year, the Association will build on the experience gained during this reporting period, strengthen community and international partnerships, and continue expanding its parliamentary and human rights activities.

Special Thanks and Recognition

The Association extends its sincere thanks to all members, volunteers, financial supporters, philanthropists, partner organisations, parliamentarians, trade unions and individuals who supported its work throughout the year.

We would particularly like to acknowledge the cooperation, assistance and continuing efforts of our friends in Australian Supporters of Democracy in Iran.

Their encouragement, practical assistance and solidarity have been invaluable to our work.

Finally, we remember all those who lost their lives in the pursuit of freedom, as well as the friends and companions who are no longer with us. Their courage, humanity and dedication will remain a guiding light as we continue this journey.

Association to Defend Freedom & Human Rights in Iran – Australia

Standing for Freedom, Human Rights and Democracy in Iran