

Statement from an ABC spokesperson

The ABC is the only Australian news team to report from Iran since the war began. We've gone to great lengths to seek the voices of ordinary Iranians in our stories. The journalists deployed do so at personal risk and their compelling storytelling benefits our audiences.

1. How difficult was it to get a visa to report from Iran?

Obtaining entry was difficult and took several months.

2. What considerations went into the decision to travel to Iran when such extreme limitations were placed on Karishma's ability to report?

Reporting for Australians through Australian eyes on major world events is a significant component of our international newsgathering service. Being able to do first-hand reporting from within the country at the centre of one of the biggest stories in the world is a unique viewpoint we can bring to Australian audiences.

The Middle East conflict has huge ramifications, including for Australians. We have gone to great lengths to seek the voices of ordinary Iranians in our stories. Being able to understand first-hand the mindset of Iranians inside the country and speak to those in positions of authority helps audiences better understand this conflict.

3. Why was it not disclosed in the TV story published on May 25 that Karishma had to pre-submit her question to the Foreign Ministry and that she was working under strict limitations? While it was included in the online story, a viewer seeing only the TV story would not be aware of that unusual requirement.

The briefing was held very shortly before the 7PM News deadline. A previous report had stated: "Almost three months into this war the ABC has been allowed into the country by the Iranian government – but only for a few days and only if we follow their rules." The digital story published the same night ([Iran says 'there is no toll' on the Strait of Hormuz but warns another payment will be required - ABC News](#)) discloses that in the briefing session the ABC was permitted to ask a question which it was required to submit in advance.

4. In the other stories where disclosure of the reporting restrictions is included, is the ABC satisfied they are sufficient? Some might *not* be considered very explicit (eg. "The [Iranian government] has given the ABC rare access to the country

because they want us to meet the Iranians fighting to keep the clerics in power' - without further context).

Obtaining entry was difficult and Iranian authorities imposed tight restrictions. The ABC has disclosed these restrictions to audiences.

For example, the 7PM News report stated: “Almost three months into this war the ABC has been allowed into the country by the Iranian government – but only for a few days and only if we follow their rules.” The digital story ([Iran says 'there is no toll' on the Strait of Hormuz but warns another payment will be required - ABC News](#)) discloses that in the briefing session the ABC was permitted to ask a question which it was required to submit in advance.

As well as being transparent about the restrictions we have stringent editorial oversight of all stories filed, as we do for any international assignment.

5. What measures were put in place to ensure the ABC was not reporting regime propaganda?

There is a high level of expertise within the International team and our correspondent is a senior, experienced international reporter. We have stringent editorial oversight of all stories filed, as we do for any international assignment. We also engaged additional translators to cross-check the translations we received in Iran.

6. Why has the ABC decided to go back into Iran this week?

The Ayatollah’s funeral was a major news event. Also it provides the opportunity to see Iran for the first time since the ceasefire was agreed to. We have gone to great lengths to seek the voices of ordinary Iranians in our stories. Many international news outlets from around the world travelled to Tehran for this event.