

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8931

To impose additional sanctions with respect to Syria, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 10, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To impose additional sanctions with respect to Syria, and
for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Stop the Killing in Syria Act”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO SYRIA

- Sec. 101. Sanctions with respect to certain government officials of countries assisting or normalizing relations with Syria.
- Sec. 102. Sanctions with respect to financial institutions operating in Syria and certain foreign persons supporting the Government of Syria.
- Sec. 103. Sanctions with respect to certain individuals serving in the Lebanese Internal Security Forces and the Lebanese Armed Forces.
- Sec. 104. Sanctions with respect to directors, officers, and other officials employed in Syrian prisons and detention facilities determined to be engaged in the use of torture.
- Sec. 105. Mandatory application of sanctions under the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019.
- Sec. 106. Limitation on waiver authorities under the Caesar Civilian Protection Act of 2019.
- Sec. 107. Measures with respect to areas of Syria controlled by the Government of Syria.

TITLE II—OTHER PROVISIONS

- Sec. 201. Determination and report relating to crimes against humanity, genocide, and war crimes in Syria.
- Sec. 202. Assessment of potential effectiveness of and requirements for the establishment of a no-fly zone, safe zones, or a no-bombing zone in Syria.
- Sec. 203. Report on net worth of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.
- Sec. 204. Strategy and report for removing the al-Assad regime from power and achieving a transition to a free and democratic Syria.
- Sec. 205. Statement of policy.
- Sec. 206. Prohibition against United States recognition of the al-Assad regime in Syria.
- Sec. 207. Report on effect of lifting Iran sanctions on war crimes in Syria.
- Sec. 208. Certification regarding humanitarian aid provided to areas in Syria held by the al-Assad regime.
- Sec. 209. Proclamation authority regarding free Syria economic zones.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
 4 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
 5 mittees” means—

6 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
 7 the Committee on Financial Services of the
 8 House of Representatives; and

1 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations
2 and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
3 Urban Affairs of the Senate.

4 (2) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign per-
5 son” has the meaning given that term in section
6 1262 of the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Ac-
7 countability Act (22 U.S.C. 2656 note).

8 **TITLE I—ADDITIONAL SANC-**
9 **TIONS WITH RESPECT TO**
10 **SYRIA**

11 **SEC. 101. SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN GOVERN-**
12 **MENT OFFICIALS OF COUNTRIES ASSISTING**
13 **OR NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH SYRIA.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose the
15 sanctions described in subsection (c) with respect to senior
16 foreign political figures and other senior government offi-
17 cials of countries on the lists required by subsection (b)(1).

18 (b) LISTS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
20 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and an-
21 nually thereafter, the President shall submit to the
22 appropriate congressional committees—

23 (A) a list of countries that—

24 (i) expressly consent to, or with
25 knowledge allow, the use of their territory

1 or financial institutions by the Government
2 of Syria to assist such government's war
3 crimes, including through financing; or

4 (ii) have a history of facilitating sanc-
5 tions evasion by the Government of Syria;

6 (B) a list of countries, including countries
7 that are members of the League of Arab States,
8 that have diplomatic relations with Syria, or
9 that continue to have extensive economic rela-
10 tions with Syria; and

11 (C) a list of countries that are considering
12 and taking steps towards establishing diplo-
13 matic relations with Syria.

14 (2) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.—The Presi-
15 dent shall include the following countries that have
16 established diplomatic relations with Syria as part of
17 the lists required by paragraph (1) until such time
18 as those countries have ceased having diplomatic re-
19 lations with the Government of Syria: Egypt, Jor-
20 dan, Lebanon, Iraq, Oman, and the United Arab
21 Emirates.

22 (3) FORM.—The lists required by paragraph (1)
23 shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may
24 contain a classified annex if necessary.

1 (c) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions de-
2 scribed in this subsection are—

3 (1) sanctions applicable with respect to a for-
4 eign person pursuant to section 7412(b) of the Cae-
5 sar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 (22 U.S.C.
6 8791 note); and

7 (2) sanctions applicable with respect to a for-
8 eign person pursuant to the Hezbollah International
9 Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (50 U.S.C. 1701
10 note).

11 (d) SENIOR FOREIGN POLITICAL FIGURE DE-
12 FINED.—In this section, the term “senior foreign political
13 figure” has the meaning given that term in section
14 1010.605 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations.

15 **SEC. 102. SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FINANCIAL INSTI-
16 TUTIONS OPERATING IN SYRIA AND CERTAIN
17 FOREIGN PERSONS SUPPORTING THE GOV-
18 ERNMENT OF SYRIA.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose the
20 sanctions described in subsection (c) with respect to each
21 financial institution on the list required by subsection
22 (b)(1)(A) and each person on the list required by sub-
23 section (b)(1)(B).

24 (b) LISTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and bi-
3 annually thereafter, the President shall submit to
4 the appropriate congressional committees—

5 (A) a list of financial institutions operating
6 in Syria; and

7 (B) a list of foreign persons of China, Leb-
8 anon, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Oman, Turkey,
9 Qatar, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates
10 that are involved in business activities with re-
11 gard to the infrastructure, construction, finan-
12 cial services, telecommunications, or petroleum
13 sectors of the Syrian economy.

14 (2) FORM.—The list required by this subsection
15 shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may
16 contain a classified annex if necessary.

17 (c) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions de-
18 scribed in this subsection are sanctions applicable with re-
19 spect to a foreign person pursuant to section 7412(b) of
20 the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 (22
21 U.S.C. 8791 note).

1 **SEC. 103. SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN INDIVID-**
2 **UALS SERVING IN THE LEBANESE INTERNAL**
3 **SECURITY FORCES AND THE LEBANESE**
4 **ARMED FORCES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose the
6 sanctions described in subsection (c) with respect to each
7 individual on the list required by subsection (b)(3).

8 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date
9 of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit
10 to the appropriate congressional committees a report
11 that—

12 (1) describes efforts by the Government of Leb-
13 anon to prevent sanctions evasion activities, includ-
14 ing smuggling efforts to support the Government of
15 Syria, including an identification of the extent to
16 which the Government of Lebanon, the Lebanese In-
17 ternal Security Forces (ISF), and the Lebanese
18 Armed Forces (LAF) have knowingly permitted, fa-
19 cilitated, or assisted such efforts;

20 (2) describes efforts by the Government of Leb-
21 anon, the ISF, and the LAF have taken to prevent
22 the forced repatriation of Syrian refugees back to
23 Syria; and

24 (3) contains a list of those individuals serving
25 in the ISF and the LAF that have participated in,
26 knowingly permitted, facilitated, or assisted the Gov-

1 ernment of Syria in sanctions evasion activities or
2 smuggling efforts to support the Government of
3 Syria.

4 (c) **SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.**—The sanctions de-
5 scribed in this subsection are sanctions applicable with re-
6 spect to a foreign person pursuant to section 1263(b) of
7 the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act
8 (22 U.S.C. 2656 note).

9 **SEC. 104. SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO DIRECTORS, OFFI-**
10 **CERS, AND OTHER OFFICIALS EMPLOYED IN**
11 **SYRIAN PRISONS AND DETENTION FACILI-**
12 **TIES DETERMINED TO BE ENGAGED IN THE**
13 **USE OF TORTURE.**

14 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The President shall impose the
15 sanctions described in subsection (c) with respect to each
16 individual on the list required by subsection (b)(2).

17 (b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 120 days after the date
18 of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit
19 to the appropriate congressional committees a report
20 that—

21 (1) describes the extent to which torture is used
22 against detainees in Syrian prisons and detention fa-
23 cilities; and

24 (2) contains a list of directors, officers, and
25 other officials employed in such prisons and deten-

1 (c) INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS DE-
2 SCRIBED.—The individuals and organizations described in
3 this subsection are the following:

- 4 (1) The Badr Organization.
- 5 (2) Hadi Al-Ameri, leader of the Badr Organi-
6 zation.
- 7 (3) The Wagner Group.
- 8 (4) Major General Abbas Ibrahim of the Leba-
9 nese General Security Directorate.
- 10 (5) The Damascus Securities Exchange.
- 11 (6) The Imam Ali Brigades.
- 12 (7) The al-Baraka Bank Syria.
- 13 (8) The al-Badia Cement Plant.
- 14 (9) The Bank Audi Syria.
- 15 (10) The International Bank for Trade and Fi-
16 nance Syria.
- 17 (11) The Bank of Syria and Overseas.
- 18 (12) The Byblos Bank Syria.
- 19 (13) The Real Estate Bank Syria.
- 20 (14) The Banque Bemo Saudi Fransi.
- 21 (15) The Basy Bank Syria.
- 22 (16) The Arab Bank Syria.
- 23 (17) The Qatar National Bank—Syria.
- 24 (18) The Syria Gulf Bank.
- 25 (19) The Fransabank Syria.

1 (20) The Parliament of Syria and every mem-
2 ber of the Parliament of Syria.

3 (21) EmmaTel Syria.

4 (22) Daman Sham.

5 (23) The Central Financial Company for Fi-
6 nancial Services and Brokerage Syria (IFC).

7 (24) Cham Capital.

8 (25) First Global Investments Financial Com-
9 pany Syria (G1–SY).

10 (26) Al Aula Company for Financial Investment
11 Syria.

12 (27) Alpha Capital for Financial Services.

13 (28) Asiria Finance.

14 (d) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions de-
15 scribed in this subsection are sanctions applicable with re-
16 spect to a foreign person pursuant to section 7412(b) of
17 the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 (22
18 U.S.C. 8791 note).

19 **SEC. 106. LIMITATION ON WAIVER AUTHORITIES UNDER**
20 **THE CAESAR CIVILIAN PROTECTION ACT OF**
21 **2019.**

22 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
23 gress that sanctions relief for the Government of Syria or
24 a withdrawal of United States military forces in Syria
25 should not be exchanged as ransom for the release of

1 American hostages in Syria because such ransom would
2 only incentivize hostile regimes around the world to take
3 American hostages.

4 (b) IN GENERAL.—Section 7432 of the Caesar Syria
5 Civilian Protection Act of 2019 (22 U.S.C. 8791 note) is
6 amended—

7 (1) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “, for re-
8 newable periods not to exceed 180 days,” and insert-
9 ing “, once, for a period not to exceed one year,”;
10 and

11 (2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “renewable
12 periods” and inserting “a period”.

13 **SEC. 107. MEASURES WITH RESPECT TO AREAS OF SYRIA**
14 **CONTROLLED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF**
15 **SYRIA.**

16 (a) DETERMINATION REGARDING AREAS OF SYRIA
17 CONTROLLED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
19 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
20 retary of the Treasury shall determine, under section
21 5318A of title 31, United States Code, whether rea-
22 sonable grounds exist for concluding that any of the
23 jurisdictions of Syria described in paragraph (2) are
24 jurisdictions of primary money laundering concern.

1 (2) JURISDICTIONS DESCRIBED.—The jurisdic-
2 tions of Syria described in this paragraph are the
3 following:

4 (A) The Damascus Governorate.

5 (B) The Homs Governorate.

6 (C) The Daraa Governorate.

7 (D) The Damascus Countryside (Rif
8 Dimeshq) Governorate.

9 (E) The Latakia Governorate.

10 (F) The Tartous Governorate.

11 (G) The As-Suwayda Governorate.

12 (b) ENHANCED DUE DILIGENCE AND REPORTING
13 REQUIREMENTS.—If the Secretary of the Treasury deter-
14 mines under subsection (a) that reasonable grounds exist
15 for concluding that a jurisdiction of Syria described para-
16 graph (2) of subsection (a) is a jurisdiction of primary
17 money laundering concern, the Secretary, in consultation
18 with the Federal functional regulators (as defined in sec-
19 tion 509 of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (15 U.S.C.
20 6809)), shall impose one or more of the special measures
21 described in section 5318A(b) of title 31, United States
22 Code, with respect to the jurisdiction.

23 (c) REPORT REQUIRED.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
25 making a determination under subsection (a) with

1 respect to whether a jurisdiction of Syria described
2 paragraph (2) of subsection (a) is a jurisdiction of
3 primary money laundering concern, the Secretary of
4 the Treasury shall submit to the appropriate con-
5 gressional committees a report that includes the rea-
6 sons for the determination.

7 (2) FORM.—A report required by paragraph (1)
8 shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may in-
9 clude a classified annex.

10 **TITLE II—OTHER PROVISIONS**

11 **SEC. 201. DETERMINATION AND REPORT RELATING TO** 12 **CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY, GENOCIDE, AND** 13 **WAR CRIMES IN SYRIA.**

14 (a) DETERMINATION.—The Secretary of State shall
15 make a determination with respect to each of the fol-
16 lowing:

17 (1) Whether the al-Assad regime’s intentional
18 barrel bombs dropped on the civilian population of
19 Syria, the “starve or surrender” campaign of sieges
20 throughout the Syrian conflict, or the campaign of
21 forced displacement and widespread torture, particu-
22 larly against the Sunni Muslim population of Syria,
23 can be considered systematic and widespread and
24 therefore constitutes crimes against humanity or

1 constitutes genocide as defined in subsection (a) of
2 section 1091 of title 18, United States Code.

3 (2) Whether Iran, Hezbollah, and Iranian-
4 backed militias' sectarian cleansing campaigns espe-
5 cially in the Damascus suburbs, particularly against
6 the Sunni Muslim population of Syria, can be con-
7 sidered systematic and widespread and therefore
8 constitutes crimes against humanity or constitutes
9 genocide as defined in subsection (a) of section 1091
10 of title 18, United States Code.

11 (3) Whether the al-Assad regime's and the Rus-
12 sian Federation's intentional targeting of hospitals
13 and relief workers, constitutes a war crime as de-
14 fined in section 2441 of title 18 of the United States
15 Code.

16 (b) REPORT.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
18 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
19 of State shall submit to the appropriate congress-
20 sional committees and make available to the public
21 a report that contains each determination made
22 under subsection (a).

23 (2) FORM.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—The report required by
25 paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified

1 form, but may contain a classified annex if nec-
2 essary.

3 (B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMA-
4 TION.—The unclassified portion of such report
5 shall be made available on a publicly available
6 internet website of the Federal Government.

7 **SEC. 202. ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL EFFECTIVENESS OF**
8 **AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ESTABLISH-**
9 **MENT OF A NO-FLY ZONE, SAFE ZONES, OR A**
10 **NO-BOMBING ZONE IN SYRIA.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
12 date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall sub-
13 mit to the appropriate congressional committees a report
14 that—

15 (1) assesses the potential effectiveness, risks,
16 and operational requirements of the establishment
17 and maintenance of a no-fly zone over part or all of
18 Syria, especially Idlib Province, to protect civilians
19 from continuing al-Assad regime and Russian air
20 strikes, including—

21 (A) the operational and legal requirements
22 for United States and coalition air power to es-
23 tablish a no-fly zone over part or all of Syria;

24 (B) the impact a no-fly zone over part or
25 all of Syria would have on the protection of ci-

1 vilians, the prevention of a refugee crisis, the
2 removal of the al-Assad regime, and humani-
3 tarian and counterterrorism efforts in Syria and
4 the surrounding region; and

5 (C) the potential for force contributions
6 from other countries to establish a no-fly zone
7 over part or all of Syria;

8 (2) assesses the potential effectiveness, risks,
9 and operational requirements for the establishment
10 of one or more safe zones in Syria for internally dis-
11 placed persons or for the facilitation of humani-
12 tarian assistance, including—

13 (A) the operational and legal requirements
14 for United States and coalition forces to estab-
15 lish one or more safe zones in Syria;

16 (B) the impact one or more safe zones in
17 Syria would have on humanitarian and counter-
18 terrorism efforts in Syria and the surrounding
19 region; and

20 (C) the potential for contributions from
21 other countries and vetted non-state actor part-
22 ners to establish and maintain one or more safe
23 zones in Syria; and

24 (3) assesses the potential effectiveness, risks,
25 and operational requirements of the establishment

1 and maintenance of a no-bombing zone over part or
2 all of Syria, including—

3 (A) the operational and legal requirements
4 for United States and coalition air power to es-
5 tablish a no-bombing zone over part or all of
6 Syria;

7 (B) the impact a no-bombing zone over
8 part or all of Syria would have on humanitarian
9 and counterterrorism efforts in Syria and the
10 surrounding region; and

11 (C) the potential for force contributions
12 from other countries to establish a no-bombing
13 zone over part or all of Syria.

14 (b) FORM.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The report required by sub-
16 section (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form,
17 but may contain a classified annex if necessary.

18 (2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—
19 The unclassified portion of such report shall be
20 made available on a publicly available internet
21 website of the Federal Government.

22 **SEC. 203. REPORT ON NET WORTH OF SYRIAN PRESIDENT**
23 **BASHAR AL-ASSAD.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the
25 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State,

1 in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the
2 Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the ap-
3 propriate congressional committees a report on the esti-
4 mated net worth and known sources of income of Syrian
5 President Bashar al-Assad and his family members (in-
6 cluding spouse, children, siblings, and paternal and mater-
7 nal cousins), including assets, investments, other business
8 interests, and relevant beneficial ownership information.

9 (b) FORM.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The report required by sub-
11 section (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form,
12 but may contain a classified annex if necessary.

13 (2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—
14 The unclassified portion of such report shall be
15 made available on a publicly available internet
16 website of the Federal Government.

17 **SEC. 204. STRATEGY AND REPORT FOR REMOVING THE AL-**
18 **ASSAD REGIME FROM POWER AND ACHIEV-**
19 **ING A TRANSITION TO A FREE AND DEMO-**
20 **CRATIC SYRIA.**

21 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
22 gress that there is no solution to the conflict in Syria as
23 long as the regime led by Bashar al-Assad remains in
24 power and that any attempts to rehabilitate the regime
25 through so-called constitutional reform negotiations or al-

1 lowing Bashar al-Assad to run in elections are unrealistic
2 and doomed to fail.

3 (b) STRATEGY.—The Secretary of State, in consulta-
4 tion with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary
5 of Defense, shall submit to the appropriate congressional
6 committees a strategy for removing the al-Assad regime
7 from power and achieving a transition to a free and demo-
8 cratic Syria. The strategy shall contain the following ele-
9 ments:

10 (1) A description of how all elements of power
11 can be utilized to achieve an irreversible political
12 transition in Syria which would remove the al-Assad
13 regime from power, and bring about a free and
14 democratic Syria.

15 (2) A description of what steps can be taken to
16 ensure women’s rights, as well as the rights of
17 Christians, Kurds, Arabs, Assyrians, Turkomen,
18 Alawis, Ismailis, Druze, and other ethnic or religious
19 minorities can be protected in Syria.

20 (3) A description of how to protect Syrian civil-
21 ians from aerial bombardment by the al-Assad re-
22 gime and Russia.

23 (4) A description of how economic sanctions can
24 be utilized and enhanced to prevent funding of and
25 normalization with the al-Assad regime especially

1 with regards to senior officials, and business entities
2 of Arab countries which diplomatically recognize the
3 al-Assad regime, including the governments of the
4 United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon,
5 and Iraq.

6 (5) A description regarding what steps can be
7 taken to secure the freedom of thousands of political
8 prisoners languishing in the prisons of the al-Assad
9 regime as well as to free detained American hostages
10 including Austin Tice, Majd Kamalmaz, and others,
11 while not trading sanctions relief or diplomatic rec-
12 ognition of the al-Assad regime as ransom for the
13 release of any hostages.

14 (6) A description about whether United Nations
15 aid to regime held areas in Syria is diverted from ci-
16 vilians and benefits the al-Assad regime, and how
17 such assistance can be discontinued.

18 (7) A description of how Iran and its backed
19 militias especially the Iraqi Badr Corps, Kata'ib
20 Hezbollah, Fatemiyoun, Zainabiyoun, 'AsaibAhl al-
21 Haq, and others can be removed from Syria.

22 (8) A description of what steps can be utilized
23 to bring about a reduction in Russian influence can
24 be curbed in Syria and a withdrawal of Russian
25 forces.

1 (9) A description of what steps can be utilized
2 to ensure the enduring defeat of ISIS, al-Qaeda, and
3 other Salafi-jihadi organizations in Syria.

4 (10) An assessment of Russian and Iranian in-
5 fluence and objectives in Syria and the potential
6 threat such influence poses to the United States.

7 (c) REPORT.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
9 after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
10 State shall submit to the appropriate congressional
11 committees and make available to the public a report
12 that contains the strategy required by subsection

13 (a).

14 (2) FORM.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—The report required by
16 paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified
17 form, but may contain a classified annex if nec-
18 essary.

19 (B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF INFORMA-
20 TION.—The unclassified portion of such report
21 shall be made available on a publicly available
22 internet website of the Federal Government.

1 **SEC. 205. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

2 Section 7402 of the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection
3 Act of 2019 (22 U.S.C. 8791 note) is amended is amended
4 to read as follows:

5 **“SEC. 7402. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

6 “It is the policy of the United States—

7 “(1) to support the Syrian people in their ef-
8 forts to remove the regime of Bashar al-Assad from
9 power and bring about a transition to a free and
10 democratic government in Syria existing in peace
11 and security with its neighbors;

12 “(2) that all diplomatic and coercive economic
13 means must be utilized to compel the al-Assad re-
14 gime to immediately halt the wholesale slaughter of
15 the Syrian people;

16 “(3) to support the human rights of all Syrians,
17 including women and ethnic and religious minorities,
18 to live in peace and dignity in a free and democratic
19 Syria;

20 “(4) that political negotiations regarding the fu-
21 ture of Syria or its constitution, including the con-
22 stitutional committee, must be preceded by an en-
23 during national ceasefire in Syria;

24 “(5) that safe zones and no-fly zones should be
25 established to protect Syrian civilians in Idlib prov-
26 ince from aerial bombardment by the al-Assad re-

1 gime and the Russian Federation, and to help stem
2 the refugee crisis by allowing Syrian civilians to stay
3 in their homes, and making it easier for Syrian refu-
4 gees to return home;

5 “(6) to work toward the withdrawal of all for-
6 eign forces in Syria;

7 “(7) to reject working with Russia to eject Ira-
8 nian forces in Syria; and

9 “(8) to end any taxpayer-funded humanitarian
10 assistance to Syria which is diverted by the al-Assad
11 regime to fund its war crimes.”.

12 **SEC. 206. PROHIBITION AGAINST UNITED STATES RECOGNI-**
13 **TION OF THE AL-ASSAD REGIME IN SYRIA.**

14 (a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the
15 United States not to recognize any Syrian government led
16 by Bashar al-Assad or the legitimacy of Bashar al-Assad
17 to be President of Syria or ever participate in any future
18 election in Syria or in any Syrian government.

19 (b) PROHIBITION.—In accordance with subsection
20 (a), no Federal department or agency may take any action
21 or extend any assistance that implies recognition of
22 Bashar al-Assad or any Syrian government led by Bashar
23 al-Assad, or which supports the participation of Bashar
24 al-Assad in any future election in Syria.

1 **SEC. 207. REPORT ON EFFECT OF LIFTING IRAN SANC-**
2 **TIONS ON WAR CRIMES IN SYRIA.**

3 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
4 gress that—

5 (1) the maximum pressure campaign carried
6 out by the United States against Iran has reduced
7 the resources available for Iran and the al-Assad re-
8 gime to carry out war crimes in Syria; and

9 (2) a condition for the lifting of the sanctions
10 that are a part of such maximum pressure campaign
11 should continue to include the demand that Iran
12 ceases its destabilizing activities in Syria and with-
13 draws all of its forces and commanded militias from
14 the country.

15 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date
16 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in
17 consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall sub-
18 mit to the appropriate congressional committees a report
19 on—

20 (1) the status of United States bilateral sanc-
21 tions on Iran;

22 (2) the reimposition and renewed enforcement
23 of secondary sanctions on Iran;

24 (3) the impact such sanctions have had on
25 Iran's support to the al-Assad regime in Syria;

1 (4) the impact that lifting such sanctions would
2 have on Iran’s ability to commit human rights
3 abuses against the people of Syria, including
4 through a detailed description of whether or not lift-
5 ing such sanctions would increase the resources
6 available for Iran to support gross human rights
7 abuses, including torture, extrajudicial killings, and
8 the killing of protesters in Syria; and

9 (5) the impact that lifting such sanctions would
10 have on the funds available for the al-Assad regime
11 to commit gross human rights abuses.

12 **SEC. 208. CERTIFICATION REGARDING HUMANITARIAN AID**
13 **PROVIDED TO AREAS IN SYRIA HELD BY THE**
14 **AL-ASSAD REGIME.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
16 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State
17 shall certify to the appropriate congressional committees
18 whether United Nations agency programming, including
19 any program or project, in Syria funded in whole or in
20 part by the United States—

21 (1) is delivered impartially, without hindrance,
22 to the areas of greatest need;

23 (2) does not directly materially support the
24 Government of Syria or entities owned or controlled
25 by the Syrian government, Syrian government offi-

1 cials, their immediate families, or entities under
2 their direction;

3 (3) does not directly materially support associ-
4 ated forces of the Government of Syria or entities
5 owned or controlled by the Syrian government;

6 (4) adheres to the United Nations Supplier
7 Code of Conduct, which states that the United Na-
8 tions must not support, directly or indirectly, other
9 entities and individuals involved in human rights
10 abuses, and which requires United Nations agencies
11 to secure guarantees from suppliers that “they are
12 not complicit in human rights abuses”; and

13 (5) is vetted by an independent mechanism that
14 reviews contract procurement in Syrian government-
15 held areas.

16 (b) FUNDING LIMITATION AND REDIRECTION.—If
17 the Secretary of State makes a certification described in
18 subsection (a) in the negative—

19 (1) no Federal department or agency may pro-
20 vide any funding, directly or indirectly, to any
21 United Nations agency programming, including any
22 program or project, in Syria that fails to meet the
23 criteria of the certification specified in subsection
24 (a); and

1 (2) amounts made available to the Secretary of
2 State that are withheld from United Nations agency
3 programming, including any program or project, in
4 Syria in accordance with paragraph (1) shall be
5 made available to the Administrator of the United
6 States Agency for International Development’s Of-
7 fice of Foreign Disaster Assistance for providing as-
8 sistance to populations in Syria in need.

9 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
11 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
12 mittees” means—

13 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
14 the Committee on Appropriations of the House
15 of Representatives; and

16 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations
17 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
18 Senate.

19 (2) ASSOCIATED FORCES.—The term “associ-
20 ated forces” includes forces of the Government of
21 Russia, forces of the Government of Iran, Iranian-
22 backed proxy militias, and Hezbollah.

1 **SEC. 209. PROCLAMATION AUTHORITY REGARDING FREE**
2 **SYRIA ECONOMIC ZONES.**

3 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Con-
4 gress that—

5 (1) enhanced trade with areas of Syria that are
6 not under the al-Assad regime’s control could help
7 economically develop such areas, strengthen civil so-
8 ciety, and ultimately help achieve a transition to a
9 free and democratic Syria;

10 (2) the President should work to—

11 (A) economically integrate areas of Syria
12 that are not under the al-Assad regime’s con-
13 trol, including in both northeast and northwest
14 Syria, in order to promote trade among such
15 areas and with United States allies in the re-
16 gion; and

17 (B) economically reduce the dependence of
18 such areas on the al-Assad regime.

19 (b) ELIMINATION OR MODIFICATIONS OF DUTIES.—
20 The President is authorized to proclaim elimination or
21 modification of any existing duty as the President deter-
22 mines is necessary to exempt any article from duty if that
23 article is wholly the growth, product, or manufacture of
24 a free Syria economic zone or is a new or different article
25 of commerce that has been grown, produced, or manufac-
26 tured in a free Syria economic zone.

1 (c) WAIVER OF SANCTIONS.—Notwithstanding any
2 other provision of law, the President is authorized to waive
3 the imposition of sanctions under any provision of law in
4 order to provide for the importation into the United States
5 of any article described in subsection (b) and to exempt
6 such article from duty in accordance with the provisions
7 of subsection (b).

8 (d) DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED.—An article is eligi-
9 ble for the duty exemption under this section only if—

10 (1) the importer certifies that the article meets
11 the conditions for the duty exemption; and

12 (2) when requested by U.S. Customs and Bor-
13 der Protection, the importer, manufacturer, or ex-
14 porter submits a declaration setting forth all perti-
15 nent information with respect to the article, includ-
16 ing the following:

17 (A) A description of the article, quantity,
18 numbers, and marks of packages, invoice num-
19 bers, and bills of lading.

20 (B) A description of the operations per-
21 formed in the production of the article in a free
22 Syria economic zone and identification of the
23 direct costs of processing operations.

24 (C) A description of any materials used in
25 production of the article which are wholly the

1 growth, product, or manufacture of free Syria
2 economic zones, and a statement as to the cost
3 or value of such materials.

4 (D) A description of the operations per-
5 formed on, and a statement as to the origin and
6 cost or value of, any foreign materials used in
7 the article which are claimed to have been suffi-
8 ciently processed in the free Syria economic
9 zone so as to be materials produced in the free
10 Syria economic zone.

11 (E) A description of the origin and cost or
12 value of any foreign materials used in the arti-
13 cle which have not been substantially trans-
14 formed in the free Syria economic zone.

15 (e) FREE SYRIA ECONOMIC ZONE DEFINED.—In this
16 section, the term “free Syria economic zone” means any
17 area that—

18 (1) encompasses portions of the territory of
19 Syria;

20 (2) is not under the control of the Government
21 of Syria, the Government of Iran, the Government
22 of Russia, or any organization designated as a for-
23 eign terrorist organization under section 219 of the
24 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189),
25 including—

1 (A) the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham
2 (ISIS);

3 (B) Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham; the al-Nusra
4 Front; and

5 (C) Jabhat Fatah al-Sham; and

6 (3) has been specified by the President as a
7 free Syria economic zone.

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