

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1348

AN ACT

To amend title 18, United States Code, relating to
war crimes.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Expanded War Crimes
3 Act of 1997”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF WAR CRIMES.**

5 Section 2441 of title 18, United States Code, is
6 amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “grave breach
8 of the Geneva Conventions” and inserting “war
9 crime”;

10 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “breach” each
11 place it appears and inserting “war crime”; and

12 (3) so that subsection (c) reads as follows:

13 “(c) DEFINITION.—As used in this section the term
14 ‘war crime’ means any conduct—

15 “(1) defined as a grave breach in any of the
16 international conventions signed at Geneva 12 Au-
17 gust 1949, or any protocol to such convention to
18 which the United States is a party;

19 “(2) prohibited by Articles 23, 25, 27, or 28 of
20 the Annex to the Hague Convention IV, Respecting
21 the Laws and Customs of War on Land, signed 18
22 October 1907;

23 “(3) which constitutes a violation of common
24 Article 3 of the international conventions signed at
25 Geneva 12 August 1949, or any protocol to such

1 convention to which the United States is a party and
2 which deals with non-international armed conflict; or
3 “(4) of a person who, in relation to an armed
4 conflict and contrary to the provisions of the Proto-
5 col on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of
6 Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices as amended
7 at Geneva on 3 May 1996 (Protocol II as amended
8 on 3 May 1996), when the United States is a party
9 to such Protocol, willfully kills or causes serious in-
10 jury to civilians.”.

Passed the House of Representatives July 29, 1997.

Attest:

Clerk.