

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3714

To amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to include in the Annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices information about freedom of the press in foreign countries, establish a grant program to promote freedom of the press worldwide, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 1, 2009

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself and Mr. PENCE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to include in the Annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices information about freedom of the press in foreign countries, establish a grant program to promote freedom of the press worldwide, 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Daniel Pearl Freedom  
5 of the Press Act of 2009”.

1 **SEC. 2. FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.**

2 (a) INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RE-  
3 LATING TO FREEDOM OF THE PRESS WORLDWIDE IN AN-  
4 NUAL COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRAC-  
5 TICES.—The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is amend-  
6 ed—

7 (1) in section 116(d) (22 U.S.C. 2151n(d)), as  
8 amended by section 333(e) of this division—

9 (A) in paragraph (10), by striking “and”  
10 at the end;

11 (B) in paragraph (11)—

12 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking  
13 “and” at the end; and

14 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking  
15 the period at the end and inserting “;  
16 and”; and

17 (C) by adding at the end the following new  
18 paragraph:

19 “(12) wherever applicable—

20 “(A) a description of the status of freedom  
21 of the press, including initiatives in favor of  
22 freedom of the press and efforts to improve or  
23 preserve, as appropriate, the independence of  
24 the media, together with an assessment of  
25 progress made as a result of those efforts;

1           “(B) an identification of countries in which  
2           there were violations of freedom of the press,  
3           including direct physical attacks, imprisonment,  
4           indirect sources of pressure, and censorship by  
5           governments, military, intelligence, or police  
6           forces, criminal groups, or armed extremist or  
7           rebel groups; and

8           “(C) in countries where there are particu-  
9           larly severe violations of freedom of the press—

10           “(i) whether government authorities  
11           of each such country participate in, facili-  
12           tate, or condone such violations of the free-  
13           dom of the press; and

14           “(ii) what steps the government of  
15           each such country has taken to preserve  
16           the safety and independence of the media,  
17           and to ensure the prosecution of those in-  
18           dividuals who attack or murder journal-  
19           ists.”; and

20           (2) in section 502B (22 U.S.C. 2304), by add-  
21           ing at the end the following new subsection:

22           “(i) The report required by subsection (b) shall in-  
23           clude, wherever applicable—

24           “(1) a description of the status of freedom of  
25           the press, including initiatives in favor of freedom of

1 the press and efforts to improve or preserve, as ap-  
2 propriate, the independence of the media, together  
3 with an assessment of progress made as a result of  
4 those efforts;

5 “(2) an identification of countries in which  
6 there were violations of freedom of the press, includ-  
7 ing direct physical attacks, imprisonment, indirect  
8 sources of pressure, and censorship by governments,  
9 military, intelligence, or police forces, criminal  
10 groups, or armed extremist or rebel groups; and

11 “(3) in countries where there are particularly  
12 severe violations of freedom of the press—

13 “(A) whether government authorities of  
14 each such country participate in, facilitate, or  
15 condone such violations of the freedom of the  
16 press; and

17 “(B) what steps the government of each  
18 such country has taken to preserve the safety  
19 and independence of the media, and to ensure  
20 the prosecution of those individuals who attack  
21 or murder journalists.”.

22 (b) FREEDOM OF THE PRESS GRANT PROGRAM.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall  
24 administer a grant program with the aim of pro-  
25 moting freedom of the press worldwide. The grant

1 program shall be administered by the Department of  
2 State’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and  
3 Labor in consultation with the Undersecretary for  
4 Public Affairs and Public Diplomacy.

5 (2) AMOUNTS AND TIME.—Grants may be  
6 awarded to nonprofit and international organizations  
7 and may span multiple years, up to five years.

8 (3) PURPOSE.—Grant proposals should promote  
9 and broaden press freedoms by strengthening the  
10 independence of journalists and media organizations,  
11 promoting a legal framework for freedom of the  
12 press, or through providing regionally and culturally  
13 relevant training and professionalization of skills to  
14 meet international standards in both traditional and  
15 digital media.

16 (c) MEDIA ORGANIZATION DEFINED.—In this sec-  
17 tion, the term “media organization” means a group or or-  
18 ganization that gathers and disseminates news and infor-  
19 mation to the public (through any medium of mass com-  
20 munication) in a foreign country in which the group or  
21 organization is located, except that the term does not in-  
22 clude a group or organization that is primarily an agency  
23 or instrumentality of the government of such foreign coun-  
24 try. The term includes an individual who is an agent or

1 employee of such group or organization who acts within  
2 the scope of such agency or employment.

3 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
4 authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-  
5 essary to carry out this section.

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