

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3714

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 17, 2009

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## AN ACT

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, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

4 **SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RELAT-**  
5 **ING TO FREEDOM OF THE PRESS WORLD-**  
6 **WIDE IN ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORTS ON**  
7 **HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES.**

8 The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is amended—

9 (1) in section 116(d) (22 U.S.C. 2151n(d)), as  
10 amended by section 333(c) of this division—

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

13 (B) in paragraph (11)—

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

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

19 (C) by adding at the end the following new  
20 paragraph:

21 “(12) wherever applicable—

22 “(A) a description of the status of freedom  
23 of the press, including initiatives in favor of  
24 freedom of the press and efforts to improve or  
25 preserve, as appropriate, the independence of

1 the media, together with an assessment of  
2 progress made as a result of those efforts;

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

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

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

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

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

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

1           “(1) a description of the status of freedom of  
2 the press, including initiatives in favor of freedom of  
3 the press and efforts to improve or preserve, as ap-  
4 propriate, the independence of the media, together  
5 with an assessment of progress made as a result of  
6 those efforts;

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

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

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

19                 “(B) what steps the government of each  
20 such country has taken to preserve the safety  
21 and independence of the media, and to ensure

1           the prosecution of those individuals who attack  
2           or murder journalists.”.

Passed the House of Representatives December 16,  
2009.

Attest:                   LORRAINE C. MILLER,  
*Clerk.*