To halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, encourage a negotiated political settlement, and hold Syrian human rights abusers accountable for their crimes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 12, 2016

Mr. Engel (for himself, Mr. Royce, Ms. Ros-Lehtinen, Mr. Deutch, Mr. Poe of Texas, Mr. Kildee, Mr. Messer, Mr. Ted Lieu of California, Mr. Kinzinger of Illinois, Mrs. McMorris Rodgers, Mr. Beyer, Mr. Ellison, and Mr. Lowenthal) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Financial Services, 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 halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, encourage a negotiated political settlement, and hold Syrian human rights abusers accountable for their crimes.

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) Short Title.—This Act may be cited as the “Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2016”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.
Sec. 2. Findings.
Sec. 3. Sense of Congress.
Sec. 4. Statement of policy.

**TITLE I—ADDITIONAL ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SYRIA**

Sec. 101. Sanctions with respect to Central Bank of Syria and foreign persons that engage in certain transactions.
Sec. 102. Prohibitions with respect to the transfer of arms and related materials to Syria.
Sec. 103. Rule of construction.

**TITLE II—AMENDMENTS TO SYRIA HUMAN RIGHTS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2012**

Sec. 201. Imposition of sanctions with respect to certain persons who are responsible for or complicit in human rights abuses committed against citizens of Syria or their family members.
Sec. 202. Imposition of sanctions with respect to the transfer of goods or technologies to Syria that are likely to be used to commit human rights abuses.

**TITLE III—REPORTS AND WAIVER FOR HUMANITARIAN-RELATED ACTIVITIES WITH RESPECT TO SYRIA**

Sec. 301. Report on monitoring and evaluating of ongoing assistance programs in Syria and to the Syrian people.
Sec. 302. Updated list of persons who are responsible for human rights violations in Syria.
Sec. 303. Assessment of potential effectiveness of and requirements for the establishment of safe zones or a no-fly zone in Syria.
Sec. 304. Assistance to support entities taking actions relating to gathering evidence for investigations into war crimes or crimes against humanity in Syria since March 2011.

**TITLE IV—SUSPENSION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO SYRIA**

Sec. 401. Suspension of sanctions with respect to Syria.
Sec. 402. Waivers and exemptions.

**TITLE V—REGULATORY AUTHORITY AND SUNSET**

Sec. 501. Regulatory authority.
Sec. 502. Sunset.

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

Congress finds the following:
(1) Over 14,000,000 Syrians have become refugees or internally displaced persons over the last five years.

(2) The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights has reported that since 2012, over 60,000 Syrians, including children, have died in Syrian prisons.

(3) In July 2014, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives heard testimony from a former Syrian military photographer, alias “Caesar”, who fled Syria and smuggled out thousands of photos of tortured bodies. In testimony, Caesar said, “I have seen horrendous pictures of bodies of people who had tremendous amounts of torture, deep wounds and burns and strangulation.”.

(4) The Assad regime has repeatedly blocked civilian access to or diverted humanitarian assistance, including medical supplies, to besieged and hard-to-reach areas, in violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions.

(5) The course of the Syrian transition and its future leadership may depend on what the United States and its partners do now to save Syrian lives, alleviate suffering, and help Syrians determine their own future.
SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Bashar al-Assad’s murderous actions against the people of Syria have caused the deaths of more than 400,000 civilians, led to the destruction of more than 50 percent of Syria’s critical infrastructure, and forced the displacement of more than 14,000,000 people, precipitating the worst humanitarian crisis in more than 60 years;

(2) international actions to date have been insufficient in protecting vulnerable populations from being attacked by uniformed and irregular forces, including Hezbollah, associated with the Assad regime, on land and from the air, through the use of barrel bombs, chemical weapons, mass starvation campaigns, industrial-scale torture and execution of political dissidents, sniper attacks on pregnant women, and the deliberate targeting of medical facilities, schools, residential areas, and community gathering places, including markets; and

(3) Assad’s continued claim of leadership and actions in Syria are a rallying point for the extremist ideology of the Islamic State, Jabhat al-Nusra, and other terrorist organizations.
SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States that all diplomatic and coercive economic means should be utilized to compel the government of Bashir al-Assad to immediately halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people and actively work towards transition to a democratic government in Syria, existing in peace and security with its neighbors.

TITLE I—ADDITIONAL ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SYRIA

SEC. 101. SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO CENTRAL BANK OF SYRIA AND FOREIGN PERSONS THAT ENGAGE IN CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS.

(a) Application of Certain Measures to Central Bank of Syria.—Except as provided in subsections (a) and (b) of section 402, the President shall apply the measures described in section 5318A(b)(5) of title 31, United States Code, to the Central Bank of Syria.

(b) Blocking Property of Foreign Persons That Engage in Certain Transactions.—

(1) In General.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall impose on a foreign person the sanctions described in subsection (c) if the foreign person has
knowingly engaged in an activity described in para-
graph (2).

(2) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—A foreign person
engages in an activity described in this paragraph if
the foreign person—

(A) knowingly provides significant finan-
cial, material or technological support to, in-
cluding engaging in or facilitating a significant
transaction or transactions with, or provides
significant financial services for—

(i) the Government of Syria (including
government entities operating as a busi-
ness enterprise) and the Central Bank of
Syria, including Syria’s intelligence and se-
curity services or its armed forces, or any
of its agents or affiliates; or

(ii) a foreign person subject to finan-
cial sanctions pursuant to—

(I) the International Emergency
1701 et seq.) with respect to Syria or
any other provision of law that im-
poses sanctions with respect to Syria;
(II) a resolution that is agreed to by the United Nations Security Coun-
cil that imposes sanctions with respect to Syria;

(B) knowingly—

(i) sells or provides significant goods, services, technology, information, or sup-
port that could directly and significantly facilitate the maintenance or expansion of Syria’s domestic production of natural gas or petroleum or petroleum products of Syr-
ian origin;

(ii) sells or provides to Syria crude oil or condensate, refined petroleum products, liquefied natural gas, or petrochemical products that have a fair market value of $500,000 or more or that during a 12-
month period have an aggregate fair mar-
ket value of $2,000,000 or more;

(iii) sells or otherwise provides civilian aircraft or spare parts, or provides signifi-
cant goods, services, or technologies associ-
ated with the operation of aircraft or air-
lines to any foreign person operating in the
areas controlled by the Government of Syria; or

(iv) sells or otherwise provides significant goods, services, or technology to a foreign person operating in the shipping (including ports and free trade zones), transportation, or telecommunications sectors in areas controlled by the Government of Syria;

(C) knowingly engages in money laundering to carry out an activity described in subparagraph (A) or (B);

(D) knowingly facilitates efforts by a foreign person to carry out an activity described in subparagraph (A) or (B);

(E) knowingly provides loans, credits, including export credits, or financing to carry out an activity described in subparagraph (A) or (B); and

(F) is owned or controlled by a foreign person that engages in the activities described in subparagraphs (A) through (D).

(e) SANCTIONS AGAINST A FOREIGN PERSON.—The sanctions to be imposed on a foreign person described in subsection (b) are the following:
(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall exercise all powers granted by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (except that the requirements of section 202 of such Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall not apply) to the extent necessary to freeze and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of the foreign person if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(2) ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—An alien who the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) knows, or has reason to believe, meets any of the criteria described in subsection (a) is—

(i) inadmissible to the United States;

(ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to re-
receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The issuing consular officer, the Secretary of State, or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) shall revoke any visa or other entry documentation issued to an alien who meets any of the criteria described in subsection (a) regardless of when issued.

(ii) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—A revocation under clause (i)—

(I) shall take effect immediately;

and

(II) shall automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the alien’s possession.

(3) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.—Sanctions under paragraph (2) shall not apply to an alien if admitting the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with

(4) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that knowingly violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of regulations promulgated under section 501(a) to carry out paragraph (1) of this subsection to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that knowingly commits an unlawful act described in section 206(a) of that Act.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMIITTED; ALIEN.—The terms “admitted” and “alien” have the meanings given such terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) FINANCIAL, MATERIAL, OR TECHNOLOGICAL SUPPORT.—The term “financial, material, or technological support” has the meaning given such term in section 542.304 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations.
(3) Government of Syria.—The term “Government of Syria” has the meaning given such term in section 542.305 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations.

(4) Knowingly.—The term “knowingly” has the meaning given such term in section 566.312 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations.

(5) Money Laundering.—The term “money laundering” means the movement of illicit cash or cash equivalent proceeds into, out of, or through a country, or into, out of, or through a financial institution.

(6) Petroleum or Petroleum Products of Syrian Origin.—The term “petroleum or petroleum products of Syrian origin” has the meaning given such term in section 542.314 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations.

(7) Significant Transaction or Transactions; Significant Financial Services.—A transaction or transactions or financial services shall be determined to be a significant for purposes of this section in accordance with section 566.404 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations.
(8) SYRIA.—The term “Syria” has the meaning given such term in section 542.316 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 102. PROHIBITIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE TRANSFER OF ARMS AND RELATED MATERIALS TO SYRIA.

(a) SANCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose on a foreign person the sanctions described in subsection (b) if the President determines that such foreign person has, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, knowingly exported, transferred, or otherwise provided to Syria significant financial, material, or technological support that contributes materially to the ability of Government of Syria to—

(A) acquire or develop chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons or related technologies;

(B) acquire or develop ballistic or cruise missile capabilities;

(C) acquire or develop destabilizing numbers and types of advanced conventional weapons;

(D) acquire defense articles, defense services, or defense information (as such terms are
defined under the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.)); or

(E) acquire items designated by the President for purposes of the United States Munitions List under section 38(a)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778(a)(1)).

(2) APPLICABILITY TO OTHER FOREIGN PERSONS.—The sanctions described in subsection (b) shall also be imposed on any foreign person that—

(A) is a successor entity to a foreign person described in paragraph (1); or 

(B) is owned or controlled by a foreign person described in paragraph (1).

(b) SANCTIONS AGAINST A FOREIGN PERSON.—The sanctions to be imposed on a foreign person described in subsection (a) are the following:

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall exercise all powers granted by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (except that the requirements of section 202 of such Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall not apply) to the extent necessary to freeze and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of the foreign person if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States,
or are or come within the possession or control of a
United States person.

(2) Aliens ineligible for visas, admission,
or parole.—

(A) Visas, admission, or parole.—An
alien who the Secretary of State or the Sec-
retary of Homeland Security (or a designee of
one of such Secretaries) knows, or has reason
to believe, meets any of the criteria described in
subsection (a) is—

(i) inadmissible to the United States;

(ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other
documentation to enter the United States;

and

(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted
or paroled into the United States or to re-
ceive any other benefit under the Immigra-
tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et
seq.).

(B) Current visas revoked.—

(i) in general.—The issuing con-
sular officer, the Secretary of State, or the
Secretary of Homeland Security (or a des-
ignee of one of such Secretaries) shall re-
voke any visa or other entry documentation
issued to an alien who meets any of the
criteria described in subsection (a) regard-
less of when issued.

(ii) Effect of Revocation.—A rev-
ocation under clause (i)—

(I) shall take effect immediately;

and

(II) shall automatically cancel
any other valid visa or entry docu-
mentation that is in the alien’s pos-
session.

(3) Exception to Comply with United Na-
tions Headquarters Agreement.—Sanctions
under paragraph (2) shall not apply to an alien if
admitting the alien into the United States is nec-
essary to permit the United States to comply with
the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the
United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26,
1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947,
between the United Nations and the United States,
or other applicable international obligations.

(4) Penalties.—A person that violates, at-
ttempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a
violation of any regulation, license, or order issued
to carry out this section shall be subject to the pen-
alties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(c) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) Admitted; alien.—The terms “admitted” and “alien” have the meanings given such terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) Financial, material, or technological support.—The term “financial, material, or technological support” has the meaning given such term in section 542.304 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations.

(3) Foreign person.—The term “foreign person” has the meaning given such term in section 594.304 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations.

(4) Knowingly.—The term “knowingly” has the meaning given such term in section 566.312 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations.

(5) Syria.—The term “Syria” has the meaning given such term in section 542.316 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations.
(6) United States person.—The term “United States person” has the meaning given such term in section 542.319 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 103. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

The sanctions that are required to be imposed under this title are in addition to other similar or related sanctions that are required to be imposed under any other provision of law.

TITLE II—AMENDMENTS TO SYRIA HUMAN RIGHTS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2012

SEC. 201. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN PERSONS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR OR COMPPLICIT IN HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES COMMITTED AGAINST CITIZENS OF SYRIA OR THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS.

(a) In General.—Section 702(c) of the Syria Human Rights Accountability Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8791(c)) is amended to read as follows:

“(c) Sanctions Described.—

“(1) In general.—The President shall exercise all powers granted by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (except that the requirements of section 202 of
such Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall not apply) to the extent necessary to freeze and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of a person on the list required by subsection (b) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

“(2) Aliens ineligible for visas, admission, or parole.—

“(A) Visas, admission, or parole.—An alien who the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) knows, or has reason to believe, meets any of the criteria described in subsection (b) is—

“(i) inadmissible to the United States;

“(ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

“(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).
“(B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The issuing consular officer, the Secretary of State, or the Secretary of Homeland Security (or a designee of one of such Secretaries) shall revoke any visa or other entry documentation issued to an alien who meets any of the criteria described in subsection (b) regardless of when issued.

“(ii) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—A revocation under clause (i)—

“(I) shall take effect immediately; and

“(II) shall automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the alien’s possession.

“(3) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of this section or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out this section shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same ex-
tent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

“(4) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The President shall, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, promulgate regulations as necessary for the implementation of this section.

“(5) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.—Sanctions under paragraph (2) shall not apply to an alien if admitting the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations.

“(6) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the President to impose additional sanctions pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), relevant Executive orders, regulations, or other provisions of law.”.

(b) SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES DESCRIBED.—Section 702 of the Syria Human Rights Accountability
Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8791) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) Serious Human Rights Abuses Described.—In subsection (b), the term ‘serious human rights abuses’ includes the deliberate targeting of civilian infrastructure to include schools, hospitals, and markets.”.

(e) Effective Date.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply with respect to the imposition of sanctions under section 702(a) of the Syria Human Rights Accountability Act of 2012 on after such date of enactment.

SEC. 202. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE TRANSFER OF GOODS OR TECHNOLOGIES TO SYRIA THAT ARE LIKELY TO BE USED TO COMMIT HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

Section 703(b)(2)(C) of the Syria Human Rights Accountability Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8792(b)(2)(C)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in clause (ii), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) any article designated by the President for purposes of the United
States Munitions List under section 38(a)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778(a)(1)); or

“(iv) other goods or technologies that the President determines may be used by the Government of Syria to commit human rights abuses against the people of Syria.”.

TITLE III—REPORTS AND WAIVER FOR HUMANITARIAN-RELATED ACTIVITIES WITH RESPECT TO SYRIA

SEC. 301. REPORT ON MONITORING AND EVALUATING OF ONGOING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN SYRIA AND TO THE SYRIAN PEOPLE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the monitoring and evaluation of ongoing assistance programs in Syria and to the Syrian people.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) the specific project monitoring and evaluation plans, including measurable goals and perform-
ance metrics for cross-border assistance in Syria;
and

(2) the major challenges to monitoring and
    evaluating programs in Syria.

SEC. 302. UPDATED LIST OF PERSONS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN SYRIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the
date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit
to the appropriate congressional committees an updated list of persons required under section 702 of the
Syria Human Rights Accountability Act of 2012 (22

(b) FORM OF REPORT; PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—

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

(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The unclassified portion of the list required by paragraph (1) shall be made available to the public and posted on the Web sites of the Department of the Treasury and the Department of State.
SEC. 303. ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL EFFECTIVENESS OF
AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ESTABLISH-
MENT OF SAFE ZONES OR A NO-FLY ZONE IN
SYRIA.

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

(1) assesses the potential effectiveness, risks,
and operational requirements of the establishment
and maintenance of a no-fly zone over part or all of
Syria, including—

(A) the operational and legal requirements
for United States and coalition air power to es-

(B) the impact a no-fly zone in Syria
would have on humanitarian and counterter-
rorism efforts in Syria and the surrounding re-
gion; and

(C) the potential for force contributions
from other countries to establish a no-fly zone
in Syria; and

(2) assesses the potential effectiveness, risks,
and operational requirements for the establishment
of one or more safe zones in Syria for internally dis-
placed persons or for the facilitation of humanitarian assistance, including—

(A) the operational and legal requirements for United States and coalition forces to establish one or more safe zones in Syria;

(B) the impact one or more safe zones in Syria would have on humanitarian and counterterrorism efforts in Syria and the surrounding region; and

(C) the potential for contributions from other countries and vetted non-state actor partners to establish and maintain one or more safe zones in Syria.

(b) Form.—The report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex if necessary.

SEC. 304. ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT ENTITIES TAKING ACTIONS RELATING TO GATHERING EVIDENCE FOR INVESTIGATIONS INTO WAR CRIMES OR CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY IN SYRIA SINCE MARCH 2011.

(a) In General.—The Secretary of State, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor and the Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, is au-
authorized to provide assistance to support entities that are conducting criminal investigations, building Syrian investigative capacity, supporting prosecutions in national courts, collecting evidence and preserving the chain of evidence for eventual prosecution against those who have committed war crimes or crimes against humanity in Syria since March 2011.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a detailed report on assistance provided under subsection (a).

TITLE IV—SUSPENSION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO SYRIA

SEC. 401. SUSPENSION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO SYRIA.

(a) SUSPENSION OF SANCTIONS.—

(1) NEGOTIATIONS NOT CONCLUDING IN AGREEMENT.—If the President determines that internationally recognized negotiations to resolve the violence in Syria have not concluded in an agreement or are likely not to conclude in an agreement, the President may suspend, as appropriate, in whole or in part, the imposition of sanctions otherwise required under this Act or any amendment made by
this Act for a period not to exceed 120 days, and re-
newable for additional periods not to exceed 120
days, if the President submits to the appropriate
congressional committees in writing a determination
and certification that the Government of Syria has
ended military attacks against and gross violations
of the human rights of the Syrian people, specifi-
cally—

(A) the air space over Syria is no longer
being utilized by the Government of Syria and
associated forces to target civilian populations
through the use of incendiary devices, including
barrel bombs, chemical weapons, and conven-
tional arms, including air-delivered missiles and
explosives;

(B) areas besieged by the Assad regime
and associated forces, including Hezbollah and
irregular Iranian forces, are no longer cut off
from international aid and have regular access
to humanitarian assistance, freedom of travel,
and medical care;

(C) the Government of Syria is releasing
all political prisoners forcibly held within the
Assad regime prison system, including the fa-
cilities maintained by various security, intel-
ligence, and military elements associated with the Government of Syria and allowed full access to the same facilities for investigations by appropriate international human rights organizations; and

(D) the forces of the Government of Syria and associated forces, including Hezbollah, irregular Iranian forces, and Russian government air assets, are no longer engaged in deliberate targeting of medical facilities, schools, residential areas, and community gathering places, including markets, in flagrant violation of international norms.

(2) NEGOTIATIONS CONCLUDING IN AGREEMENT.—

(A) INITIAL SUSPENSION OF SANCTIONS.—

If the President determines that internationally recognized negotiations to resolve the violence in Syria have concluded in an agreement or are likely to conclude in an agreement, the President may suspend, as appropriate, in whole or in part, the imposition of sanctions otherwise required under this Act or any amendment made by this Act for a period not to exceed 120 days if the President submits to the appropriate
congressional committees in writing a determination and certification that—

(i) in the case in which the negotiations are likely to conclude in an agreement—

(I) the Government of Syria, the Syrian High Negotiations Committee or its successor, and appropriate international parties are participating in direct, face-to-face negotiations; and

(II) the suspension of sanctions under this Act or any amendment made by this Act is essential to the advancement of such negotiations; and

(ii) the Government of Syria has demonstrated a commitment to a significant and substantial reduction in attacks on and violence against the Syrian people by the Government of Syria and associated forces.

(B) RENEWAL OF SUSPENSION OF SANCTIONS.—The President may renew a suspension of sanctions under subparagraph (A) for additional periods not to exceed 120 days if, for
each such additional period, the President sub-
mits to the appropriate congressional commit-
tees in writing a determination and certification
that—

(i) the conditions described in clauses
(i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A) are con-
tinuing to be met;

(ii) the renewal of the suspension of
sanctions is essential to implementing an
agreement described in subparagraph (A)
or making progress toward concluding an
agreement described in subparagraph (A);

(iii) the Government of Syria and as-
associated forces have ceased attacks against
Syrian civilians; and

(iv) the Government of Syria has pub-
lically committed to negotiations for a
transitional government in Syria and con-
tinues to demonstrate that commitment
through sustained engagement in talks and
substantive and verifiable progress towards
the implementation of such an agreement.

(3) BRIEFING AND REIMPOSITION OF SANCT-
IONS.—
(A) BRIEFING.—Not later than 30 days after the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees a determination and certification in the case of a renewal of suspension of sanctions under paragraph (2)(B), and every 30 days thereafter, the President shall provide a briefing to the appropriate congressional committees on the status and frequency of negotiations described in paragraph (2).

(B) RE-IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—If the President provides a briefing to the appropriate congressional committees under subparagraph (A) with respect to which the President indicates a lapse in negotiations described in paragraph (2) for a period that equals or exceeds 90 days, the sanctions that were suspended under paragraph (2)(B) shall be re-imposed and any further suspension of such sanctions is prohibited.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR DETERMINING A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT IN SYRIA.—It is the sense of Congress that a transitional government in Syria is a government that—

(1) is taking verifiable steps to release all political prisoners and provided full access to Syrian
prisons for investigations by appropriate international human rights organizations;

(2) is taking verifiable steps to remove former senior Syrian Government officials who are complicit in the conception, implementation, or coverup of war crimes, crimes against humanity, or human rights abuses from government positions and any person subject to sanctions under any provision of law;

(3) is in the process of organizing free and fair elections for a new government—

(A) to be held in a timely manner and scheduled while the suspension of sanctions or the renewal of the suspension of sanctions under this section is in effect; and

(B) to be conducted under the supervision of internationally recognized observers;

(4) is making tangible progress toward establishing an independent judiciary;

(5) is demonstrating respect for and compliance with internationally recognized human rights and basic freedoms as specified in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(6) is taking steps to verifiably fulfill its commitments under the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear
Weapons and is making tangible progress toward becoming a signatory to Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, entered into force March 26, 1975, and adhering to the Missile Technology Control Regime and other control lists, as necessary;

(7) has halted the development and deployment of ballistic and cruise missiles; and

(8) is taking verifiable steps to remove from positions of authority within the intelligence and security services as well as the military those who were in a position of authority or responsibility during the conflict and who under the authority of their position were implicated in or implicit in the torture, extrajudicial killing, or execution of civilians, to include those who were involved in decisionmaking or execution of plans to use chemical weapons.

SEC. 402. WAIVERS AND EXEMPTIONS.

(a) Exemptions.—The following activities and transactions shall be exempt from sanctions authorized under this Act:

(1) Any activity subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security
Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.), or to any authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

(2) Any transaction necessary to comply with United States obligations under—

(A) the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947; or

(B) the Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and entered into force March 19, 1967.

(b) HUMANITARIAN AND DEMOCRACY ASSISTANCE WAIVER.—

(1) Statement of Policy.—It shall be the policy of the United States to fully utilize the waiver authority under this subsection to ensure that adequate humanitarian relief or support for democracy promotion is provided to the Syrian people.

(2) Waiver.—The President may waive, on a case-by-case basis, for a period not to exceed 120 days, and renewable for additional periods not to exceed 120 days, the application of sanctions authorized under this Act if the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees a written de-
termination that the waiver is necessary for purposes of providing humanitarian assistance or support for democracy promotion to the people of Syria.

(3) CONTENT OF WRITTEN DETERMINATION.—A written determination submitted under paragraph (1) with respect to a waiver shall include a description of all notification and accountability controls that have been employed in order to ensure that the activities covered by the waiver are humanitarian assistance or support for democracy promotion and do not entail any activities in Syria or dealings with the Government of Syria not reasonably related to humanitarian assistance or support for democracy promotion.

(4) CLARIFICATION OF PERMITTED ACTIVITIES UNDER WAIVER.—The President may not impose sanctions authorized under this Act against an internationally recognized humanitarian organization for—

(A) engaging in a financial transaction relating to humanitarian assistance or for humanitarian purposes pursuant to a waiver issued under paragraph (1);

(B) transporting goods or services that are necessary to carry out operations relating to
humanitarian assistance or humanitarian pur-
poses pursuant to such a waiver; or

(C) having incidental contact, in the course
of providing humanitarian assistance or aid for
humanitarian purposes pursuant to such a
waiver, with individuals who are under the con-
trol of a foreign person subject to sanctions
under this Act or any amendment made by this
Act.

c (c) WAIVER.—

(1) In general.—The President may, on a
case-by-case basis and for periods not to exceed 120
days, waive the application of sanctions under this
Act with respect to a foreign person if the President
certifies to the appropriate congressional committees
that such waiver is vital to the national security in-
terests of the United States.

(2) Consultation.—

(A) Before waiver issued.—Not later
than 5 days before the issuance of a waiver
under paragraph (1) is to take effect, the Presi-
dent shall notify and brief the appropriate con-
gressional committees on the status of the for-
gn person involvement in activities described
in this Act.
(B) After waiver issued.—Not later than 90 days after the issuance of a waiver under paragraph (1), and every 120 days thereafter if the waiver remains in effect, the President shall brief the appropriate congressional committees on the status of the foreign person’s involvement in activities described in this Act.

TITLE V—REGULATORY AUTHORITY AND SUNSET

SEC. 501. REGULATORY AUTHORITY.

(a) In general.—The President shall, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, promulgate regulations as necessary for the implementation of this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(b) Notification to Congress.—Not less than 10 days before the promulgation of regulations under subsection (a), the President shall notify and provide to the appropriate congressional committees the proposed regulations and the provisions of this Act and the amendments made by this Act that the regulations are implementing.

(c) Definition.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and
(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

SEC. 502. SUNSET.

This Act shall cease to be effective beginning on December 31, 2021.