To impose additional sanctions with respect to serious human rights abuses of the Government of Iran, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
JANUARY 9, 2018
Mr. McCaul (for himself, Mr. Deutch, Mr. Royce of California, and Mr. Engel) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, 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 serious human rights abuses of the Government of Iran, and for other purposes.

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the “Iran Human Rights and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act”.

SEC. 2. UNITED STATES POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN.
(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:
(1) Iran is a member of the United Nations, voted for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and is a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, among other international human rights treaties.

(2) In violation of these and other international obligations, Iranian regime officials continue to violate the fundamental human rights of the Iranian people.

(3) The Iranian regime persecutes ethnic and religious minority groups, such as the Baha’is, Christians, Sufi, Sunni, and dissenting Shi’a Muslims (such as imprisoned Ayatollah Hossein Kazemeyni Boroujerdi), through harassment, arrests, and imprisonment, during which detainees have routinely been beaten, tortured, and killed.

(4) Following voting irregularities that resulted in the 2009 election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the Iranian regime brutally suppressed peaceful political dissent from wide segments of civil society during the Green Revolution in a cynical attempt to retain its undemocratic grip on power.

(5) Since February 2011 the leaders of Iran’s Green Movement, former Prime Minister Mir
Hossein Mousavi, his wife Dr. Zahra Rahnavard, and former Speaker of the Majles (parliament) Mehdi Karroubi, have lived under strict house arrest, ordered by Iran’s Supreme National Security Council.

(6) In 1999 the Iranian regime brutally suppressed a student revolt that was one of the largest mass uprisings up until that point in the country since 1979.

(7) Over a 4-month period in 1988, the Iranian regime carried out the barbaric mass executions of thousands of political prisoners.

(8) Senior governmental, military, and public security officials in Iran have continued ordering, controlling, and committing egregious human rights violations that, in many cases, represent official policies of the Iranian regime.

(b) Sense of Congress.—It is the sense of the Congress that the United States should—

(1) deny the Government of Iran the ability to continue to oppress the people of Iran and to use violence and executions to silence pro-democracy protestors;

(2) support efforts made by the people of Iran to promote the establishment of basic freedoms that
build the foundation for the emergence of a freely
elected, open, non-corrupt and democratic political
system; and

(3) help the people of Iran produce, access, and
share information freely and safely via the internet
and other media.

(c) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy
of the United States to stand with the people of Iran who
seek the opportunity to freely elect a government of their
choosing, and increase the utilization of all available au-
thorities to impose sanctions on officials of the Govern-
ment of Iran and other individuals responsible for serious
human rights abuses.

SEC. 3. DETERMINATIONS WITH RESPECT TO IMPOSITION
OF SANCTIONS ON CERTAIN PERSONS RE-
SPONSIBLE FOR OR COMPLICIT IN HUMAN
RIGHTS ABUSES, ENGAGING IN CENSORSHIP,
ENGAGING IN THE DIVERSION OF GOODS IN-
TENDED FOR THE PEOPLE OF IRAN, OR EN-
GAGING IN CORRUPTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the
date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter
(or more frequently if the President determines it appro-
priate based on new information received by the Presi-
dent) for the following 4 years, the President shall submit
to the appropriate congressional committees a report contain-
ing a determination of whether any senior officials of
the Government of Iran or other Iranian persons meet the
criteria described in—

(1) section 105(b), 105A(b), 105B(b), or
105C(b) of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Ac-
countability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C.
8514(b), 8514a(b), 8514b(b), or 8514c(b)), or sub-
section (b) of section 105D of such Act (as added
by section 5 of this Act); or

(2) paragraph (3) or (4) of section 1263(a) of
the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal
Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 22 U.S.C. 2656
note).

(b) FORM OF REPORT; PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—

(1) FORM.—The report required under sub-
section (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form,
but may contain a classified annex.

(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The unclassified
portion of such report shall be made available to the
public and posted on the internet website of the De-
partment of the Treasury—

(A) in English, Farsi, Arabic, and Azeri;
(B) in precompressed, easily downloadable versions that are made available in all appropriate formats.

(c) SOURCES OF INFORMATION.—In preparing the report required under subsection (a), the President may utilize any credible publication, database, web-based resource, and any credible information compiled by any government agency, nongovernmental organization, or other entity provided to or made available to the President.

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

(1) the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

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

SEC. 4. UNITED STATES POLICY ON HOSTAGE-TAKING BY THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Since 1979 the Iranian regime has engaged in various destabilizing activities that undermine the national security of the United States and its allies and partners.
(2) These activities include the hostage-taking 
or prolonged arbitrary detentions of United States 
citizens and other persons with connections to Can-
ada, the United Kingdom, France, and other nations 
allied with the United States.

(3) The Iranian regime has detained on fab-
ricated claims a significant number of United States 
citizens, including Siamak and Baquer Namazi and 
Xiyue Wang, as well as United States legal perma-
nent resident, Nizar Zakka, in violation of inter-
national legal norms.

(4) The Iranian regime has not provided infor-
mation on the whereabouts of or assistance in ensur-
ing the prompt and safe return of Robert Levinson, 
despite repeated promises to do so, after he was kid-
napped while visiting Iran’s Kish Island on March 9, 
2007—making him the longest held hostage in 
United States history.

(5) The Iranian regime reportedly uses hostages 
as leverage against foreign investors to exact busi-
ness concessions in foreign investment deals.

(6) The type of hostage-taking enterprise put in 
place by the Iranian regime is a crime against hu-
manity and a violation of customary international 
law.
(b) Sense of Congress.—It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the Administration should fully utilize all necessary and appropriate measures to prevent the Iranian regime from engaging in hostage-taking or the prolonged arbitrary detention of United States citizens or legal permanent resident aliens, to include—

(A) the use of extradition to try and convict those individuals responsible for ordering or controlling the hostage-taking or arbitrary detention of United States citizens; and

(B) the use of the Department of Homeland Security’s Human Rights Violators and War Crimes Center to target such individuals; and

(2) the United States should encourage its allies and other affected countries to pursue the criminal prosecution and extradition of state and non-state actors in Iran that assist in or benefit from such hostage-taking to prevent such state and non-state actors from engaging in this practice in the future.

(c) Statement of Policy.—It shall be the policy of the United States Government not to pay ransom or
release prisoners for the purpose of securing the release
of United States citizens or legal permanent resident
aliens taken hostage abroad.

(d) Strategy.—Not later than 120 days after the
date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State
shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign
Relations of the Senate a report that contains a strategy
to prevent elements of the Iranian regime from engaging
in hostage-taking or the prolonged arbitrary detention of
United States citizens or legal permanent resident aliens.

SEC. 5. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO PER-
SONS WHO ENGAGE IN CERTAIN ACTIONS
AGAINST UNITED STATES CITIZENS OR IRA-
NIAN PERSONS.

(a) Sense of Congress.—It is the sense of Con-
gress that the United States should coordinate with
United States allies and other allies and partners whose
citizens may be subject to politically-motivated detention
or trial in Iran, to apply sanctions against persons that
are responsible for or complicit in, or responsible for or-
dering, controlling, or otherwise directing, such detention
or trial.

(b) In General.—Title I of the Comprehensive Iran
Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 is
amended by inserting after section 105C (22 U.S.C. 8514c) the following:

“SEC. 105D. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS WHO ENGAGE IN CERTAIN ACTIONS AGAINST UNITED STATES CITIZENS OR IRANIAN PERSONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose sanctions described in section 105(c) with respect to each person on the list required by subsection (b).

“(b) LIST OF PERSONS WHO ENGAGE IN CERTAIN ACTIONS AGAINST UNITED STATES CITIZENS OR IRANIAN PERSONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of persons that the President determines, based on credible evidence—

“(A) are responsible for or complicit in, or responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, the politically-motivated intimidation, abuse, extortion, or detention or trial of citizens of the United States or United States legal permanent resident aliens, in Iran; or

“(B) are responsible for or complicit in, or responsible for ordering, controlling, or other-
wise directing, the politically-motivated intimida-
dation, abuse, extortion, or detention or trial of
Iranians, Iranian residents, or persons of Ira-
nian origin outside of Iran.

“(2) UPDATES OF LIST.—The President shall
submit to the appropriate congressional committees
an updated list under paragraph (1)—

“(A) each time the President is required to
submit an updated list to those committees
under section 105(b)(2)(A); and

“(B) as new information becomes avail-
able.

“(3) FORM OF REPORT; PUBLIC AVAIL-
ABILITY.—

“(A) FORM.—The list required by para-
graph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified
form but may contain a classified annex.

“(B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The unclas-
sified portion of the list required by paragraph
(1) shall be made available to the public and
posted on the websites of the Department of the
Treasury and the Department of State.

“(c) APPLICATION OF SANCTIONS TO IMMEDIATE
FAMILY MEMBERS.—
“(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose sanctions described in paragraph (2) with respect to each person that is a family member of any person on the list required by subsection (b).

“(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, is a family member of any person on the list required by 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 des-
ignee of one of such Secretaries) shall re-
voke any visa or other entry documentation
issued to an alien who is a family member
of any person on the list required by sub-
section (b) regardless of when issued.

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

“(I) shall take effect imme-
diately; 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) Definition of Family Member.—In this section, the term ‘family member’ means, with respect to an individual—

“(A) a spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandchild, or grandparent of the individual; and

“(B) a spouse’s child, parent, or sibling.

“(d) Termination of Sanctions.—The provisions of this section shall terminate on the date that is 30 days after the date on which the President—

“(1) determines and certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the Government of Iran is no longer complicit in or responsible for the wrongful and unlawful detention of United States citizens or legal permanent resident aliens; and

“(2) transmits to the appropriate congressional committees the certification described in section 105(d) of this Act.”.

(c) Clerical Amendment.—The table of contents for the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 105C the following new item:

“Sec. 105D. Imposition of sanctions with respect to persons who engage in certain actions against United States citizens or Iranian persons.”.

(d) Amendments to General Provisions.—Section 401 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Account-
ability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8551) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “and 305” and inserting “, 105D, and 305”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) by striking “or 105C(a)” and inserting “, 105C(a), or 105D(a)”; and

(B) by striking “or 105C(b)” and inserting “105C(b), or 105D(b)”.

SEC. 6. CONSOLIDATION OF CERTAIN REPORTS.

(a) In General.—Any and all reports required to be submitted to Congress under this Act, any amendment made by this Act, or a covered provision of law that are subject to a deadline for submission consisting of the same unit of time may be consolidated into a single report that is submitted to Congress pursuant to such deadline.

(b) Matters To Be Included.—The consolidated reports shall contain all information required under this Act, any amendment made by this Act, or a covered provision of law, in addition to all other elements required by previous law.

(c) Covered Provisions of Law.—In this section, the term “covered provision of law” means the following:


(3) The Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (Public Law 112–158; 22 U.S.C. 8701 et seq.).
