

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4744

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 7, 2018

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

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## AN ACT

To impose additional sanctions with respect to serious human rights abuses of the Government of Iran, 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 “Iran Human Rights  
3 and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. UNITED STATES POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLA-**  
5 **TIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN.**

6       (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

7           (1) Iran is a member of the United Nations,  
8 voted for the Universal Declaration of Human  
9 Rights, and is a signatory to the International Cov-  
10 enant on Civil and Political Rights, among other  
11 international human rights treaties.

12           (2) In violation of these and other international  
13 obligations, Iranian regime officials continue to vio-  
14 late the fundamental human rights of the Iranian  
15 people.

16           (3) The Iranian regime persecutes ethnic and  
17 religious minority groups, such as the Baha’is,  
18 Christians, Sufi, Sunni, and dissenting Shi’a Mus-  
19 lims (such as imprisoned Ayatollah Hossein  
20 Kazemeyni Boroujerdi), through harassment, ar-  
21 rests, and imprisonment, during which detainees  
22 have routinely been beaten, tortured, and killed.

23           (4) Following voting irregularities that resulted  
24 in the 2009 election of President Mahmoud  
25 Ahmadinejad, the Iranian regime brutally sup-  
26 pressed peaceful political dissent from wide segments

1 of civil society during the Green Revolution in a cyn-  
2 ical attempt to retain its undemocratic grip on  
3 power.

4 (5) Since February 2011 the leaders of Iran's  
5 Green Movement, former Prime Minister Mir  
6 Hossein Mousavi, his wife Dr. Zahra Rahnavaard,  
7 and former Speaker of the Majles (parliament)  
8 Mehdi Karroubi, have lived under strict house ar-  
9 rest, ordered by Iran's Supreme National Security  
10 Council.

11 (6) In 1999 the Iranian regime brutally sup-  
12 pressed a student revolt that was one of the largest  
13 mass uprisings up until that point in the country  
14 since 1979.

15 (7) Over a 4-month period in 1988, the Iranian  
16 regime carried out the barbaric mass executions of  
17 thousands of political prisoners by hanging and fir-  
18 ing squad for refusing to renounce their political af-  
19 filiations and in some cases for possessing political  
20 reading material, including prisoners of conscience,  
21 teenagers, and pregnant women. In a recently dis-  
22 closed audiotape, the late Hussein Ali Montazeri, a  
23 grand ayatollah who served as former Supreme lead-  
24 er Khomeini's chief deputy, said that the 1988 mass  
25 killings were "the greatest crime committed during

1 the Islamic Republic, for which history will condemn  
2 us”.

3 (8) Senior governmental, military, and public  
4 security officials in Iran have continued ordering,  
5 controlling, and committing egregious human rights  
6 violations that, in many cases, represent official poli-  
7 cies of the Iranian regime.

8 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the  
9 Congress that the United States should—

10 (1) deny the Government of Iran the ability to  
11 continue to oppress the people of Iran and to use vi-  
12 olence and executions to silence pro-democracy  
13 protestors;

14 (2) work with international partners to inves-  
15 tigate human rights violations by senior officials of  
16 the Government of Iran, regardless of where or when  
17 such violations took place;

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

23 (4) condemn Iranian human rights abuses  
24 against dissidents, including the massacre in 1988  
25 and the suppression of political demonstrations in

1 1999, 2009, and 2017, and pressure the Govern-  
2 ment of Iran to provide family members detailed in-  
3 formation that they were denied about the final rest-  
4 ing places of any missing victims of such abuses;  
5 and

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

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

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

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the  
24 date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall sub-  
25 mit to the appropriate congressional committees a report

1 containing a determination of whether any senior officials  
2 of the Government of Iran or other Iranian persons meet  
3 the criteria described in—

4 (1) subsection (b) of section 105D of the Com-  
5 prehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Di-  
6 vestment Act of 2010, as added by section 5 of this  
7 Act; or

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

12 (b) REVIEW OF CERTAIN ENTITIES.—The report re-  
13 quired under subsection (a) shall contain a review of any  
14 activities of cooperative foundations or bonyads in Iran  
15 with a capitalization that exceeds \$200,000,000 and that  
16 meet the criteria in paragraph (3) or (4) of section  
17 1263(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for  
18 Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 22 U.S.C. 2656  
19 note) for purposes of corruption.

20 (c) FORM OF REPORT; PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—

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

24 (2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The unclassified  
25 portion of such report shall be made available to the

1 public and posted on the internet website of the De-  
2 partment of the Treasury—

3 (A) in English, Farsi, Arabic, and Azeri;  
4 and

5 (B) in precompressed, easily downloadable  
6 versions that are made available in all appro-  
7 priate formats.

8 (d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “appro-  
9 priate congressional committees” means—

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

13 (2) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and  
14 Urban Affairs and the Committee on Foreign Rela-  
15 tions of the Senate.

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

18 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

19 (1) Since 1979 the Iranian regime has engaged  
20 in various destabilizing activities that undermine the  
21 national security of the United States and its allies  
22 and partners.

23 (2) These activities include the hostage-taking  
24 or prolonged arbitrary detentions of United States  
25 citizens and other persons with connections to Can-

1       ada, the United Kingdom, France, and other nations  
2       allied with the United States.

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

9           (4) The Iranian regime has not provided infor-  
10      mation on the whereabouts of or assistance in ensur-  
11      ing the prompt and safe return of Robert Levinson,  
12      despite repeated promises to do so, after he was kid-  
13      napped while visiting Iran’s Kish Island on March 9,  
14      2007—making him the longest held hostage in  
15      United States history.

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

19          (6) The type of hostage-taking enterprise put in  
20      place by the Iranian regime is a crime against hu-  
21      manity and a violation of customary international  
22      law.

23      (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the  
24      Congress that—



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

7                   (A) the use of extradition to try and con-  
8                   vict those individuals responsible for ordering or  
9                   controlling the hostage-taking or arbitrary de-  
10                  tention of United States citizens; and

11                   (B) the use of the Department of Home-  
12                   land Security’s Human Rights Violators and  
13                   War Crimes Center to target such individuals;  
14                  and

15           (2) the United States should encourage its al-  
16           lies and other affected countries to pursue the crimi-  
17           nal prosecution and extradition of state and non-  
18           state actors in Iran that assist in or benefit from  
19           such hostage-taking to prevent such state and non-  
20           state actors from engaging in this practice in the fu-  
21           ture.

22           (c) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the  
23           United States Government not to pay ransom for the pur-  
24           pose of securing the release of United States citizens or  
25           legal permanent resident aliens taken hostage abroad.

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

9 **SEC. 5. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO IRA-**  
10 **NIAN PERSONS WHO ENGAGE IN CERTAIN AC-**  
11 **TIONS AGAINST UNITED STATES CITIZENS OR**  
12 **IRANIAN PERSONS.**

13 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
14 gress that the United States should coordinate with  
15 United States allies and other allies and partners whose  
16 citizens may be subject to politically-motivated detention  
17 or trial in Iran, to apply sanctions against Iranian persons  
18 that are responsible for or complicit in, or responsible for  
19 ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, such deten-  
20 tion or trial.

21 (b) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the Comprehensive Iran  
22 Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 is  
23 amended by inserting after section 105C (22 U.S.C.  
24 8514c) the following:

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

5 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose sanc-  
6 tions described in section 105(c) with respect to each per-  
7 son on the list required by subsection (b).

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

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
12 after the date of the enactment of this section, the  
13 President shall submit to the appropriate congres-  
14 sional committees a list of Iranian persons that the  
15 President determines, are knowingly—

16 “(A) responsible for or complicit in, or re-  
17 sponsible for ordering or otherwise directing,  
18 the politically-motivated harassment, abuse, ex-  
19 tortion, or extended detention or trial of citizens  
20 of the United States or United States legal per-  
21 manent resident aliens, regardless of whether  
22 such actions occurred in Iran; or

23 “(B) responsible for or complicit in, or re-  
24 sponsible for ordering or otherwise directing,  
25 the politically-motivated harassment, abuse, ex-  
26 tortion, or extended detention or trial of Ira-

1           nians, Iranian residents, or persons of Iranian  
2           origin outside of Iran.

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

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

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

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

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

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

21          “(c) APPLICATION OF SANCTIONS TO IMMEDIATE  
22          FAMILY MEMBERS.—

23                   “(1) IN GENERAL.—The President is author-  
24          ized to impose sanctions described in paragraph (2)

1 with respect to each person that is a family member  
2 of any person on the list required by subsection (b).

3 “(2) ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMIS-  
4 SION, OR PAROLE.—

5 “(A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—An  
6 alien who the Secretary of State or the Sec-  
7 retary of Homeland Security (or a designee of  
8 one of such Secretaries) knows, or has reason  
9 to believe, is a family member of any person on  
10 the list required by subsection (b) is—

11 “(i) inadmissible to the United States;

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

15 “(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admit-  
16 ted or paroled into the United States or to  
17 receive any other benefit under the Immi-  
18 gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
19 1101 et seq.).

20 “(B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

21 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The issuing con-  
22 sular officer, the Secretary of State, or the  
23 Secretary of Homeland Security (or a des-  
24 ignee of one of such Secretaries) shall re-  
25 voke any visa or other entry documentation

1 issued to an alien who is a family member  
2 of any person on the list required by sub-  
3 section (b) regardless of when issued.

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

6 “(I) shall take effect imme-  
7 diately; and

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

12 “(3) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NA-  
13 TIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.—Sanctions  
14 under paragraph (2) shall not apply to an alien if  
15 admitting the alien into the United States is nec-  
16 essary to permit the United States to comply with  
17 the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the  
18 United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26,  
19 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947,  
20 between the United Nations and the United States,  
21 or other applicable international obligations.

22 “(4) DEFINITION OF FAMILY MEMBER.—In this  
23 section, the term ‘family member’ means, with re-  
24 spect to an individual—

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

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

5           “(d) TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.—The provisions  
6 of this section shall terminate on the date that is 30 days  
7 after the date on which the President—

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

13          “(2) transmits to the appropriate congressional  
14          committees the certification described in section  
15          105(d) of this Act.”.

16          “(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
17 for the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and  
18 Divestment Act of 2010 is amended by inserting after the  
19 item relating to section 105C the following new item:

          “Sec. 105D. Imposition of sanctions with respect to Iranian persons who en-  
  gage in certain actions against United States citizens or Ira-  
  nian persons.”.

20          “(d) AMENDMENTS TO GENERAL PROVISIONS.—Sec-  
21 tion 401 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Account-  
22 ability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8551) is  
23 amended—

Attest: KAREN L. HAAS,  
*Clerk.*