116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION  
H. R. 5276

To require a report describing whether certain persons meet the criteria to be sanctioned pursuant to the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act for violating the human rights of Iraqi protestors, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 26, 2019

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. MALINOWSKI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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A BILL

To require a report describing whether certain persons meet the criteria to be sanctioned pursuant to the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act for violating the human rights of Iraqi protestors, 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 “Iraq Human Rights
5 and Accountability Act of 2019”.

6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

7 Congress finds the following:
(1) The Government of Iraq responded to the protests in Baghdad, Babil, Basra, Maysan, Nasiriya, Karbala, and Najaf from October 1 through November 2019, by using unprecedented repressive measures against protestors that included shootings, sniper fire, illegal and unlawful detention, mass arrests, and weaponizing public services such as electricity and the internet.

(2) The United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, under United Nations Security Council Resolution 2470 (2019), states that 149 people were killed in early October and another 97 between October 25 and November 6, 2019, while over 6,100 civilians have been wounded during the suppression of these protests. These human rights violations and abuses resulted due to excessive force against protestors by Iraqi Security Forces.

(3) Since 2017, Iraqi Security Forces aligned with the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF), predominantly Shi’ite militias frequently backed by Iran, have committed unlawful and arbitrary killings according to the United States Department of State. Some reports indicate that PMF-aligned fighters were behind the roof-top sniper attacks in Baghdad in early October 2019 targeting protestors. Iraqi po-
lice also fired military grade tear gas grenades which
lodged in protestors bodies. On October 8, 2019, the
Iraqi military acknowledged the excessive use of
force.

(4) The Iraqi government also suppressed freedom of expression during the protests through the
detention of journalists, blocking internet access
from October 3 through 9, 2019, and again since
late October, and attacking media outlets. These at-
tacks included intimidation, harassment, and pre-
paring journalist watchlists while also raiding sat-
ellite television stations in Baghdad.

(5) The Commander of the Iranian Quds Force
taveled to Iraq in October 2019 and met with mili-
tia leaders from the PMF. The PMF report to the
Iraqi Prime Minister but many units maintain a
command structure outside the formal military chain
of command linked directly to the Iranian Revolu-
tionary Guard Corps. The PMF and the Iranian
Revolutionary Guard Corps established a joint oper-
tional cell in Baghdad on October 3, 2019, that
may have directly contributed to the use of excessive
force and snipers.

(6) The 2018 Country Reports on Human
Rights Practices of the Department of State found
that “civilian authorities did not maintain effective control over some elements of the security forces, particularly certain units of the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) that were aligned with Iran”.

(7) The Government of Iran continues to intervene and maintain influence with the militia leaders and Commanders of the PMF. This undermines the formal Iraqi chain of command and contributes to actions by the PMF that use repressive actions against Iraqi protestors to maintain Iranian proxy power.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It shall be the policy of the United States to—

(1) support democracy and human rights in Iraq, including the robust exercise by Iraqis of the rights to free speech and assembly as guaranteed to them by the Iraqi constitution;

(2) support calls for meaningful government reform to combat corruption and strengthen rule of law and transparency;

(3) condemn any and all attacks on peaceful protesters by Iraqi authorities, militias, or others;

(4) encourage a rapid and full restoration of internet services and publicly verifiable measures by
the Government of Iraq to protect media workers
and medical personnel;

(5) demand accountability for individuals and
entities involved directly and indirectly in attacks
and other human rights violations against peaceful
Iraqi protestors; and

(6) maintain a robust diplomatic presence
across Iraq as a sign and tool of the commitment
and influence of the United States in countering ma-
align influences in the region, helping Iraq maintain
its full sovereignty, and contributing to the develop-
ment of a healthy and corruption-free economy that
serves the Iraqi people.

SEC. 4. REPORT ON SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO HUMAN
RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST IRAQI
PROTESTORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State
shall submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) a statement whether each person listed in
subsection (b) meets the criteria to be designated for
the imposition of sanctions under section 1263 of
the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability
Act (title XII of the National Defense Authorization
Act for Fiscal Year 2017; 22 U.S.C. 2656 note) because such person—

(A) is responsible for extrajudicial killings, torture, or other gross violations of internationally recognized human rights in Iraq with respect to Iraqi protestors seeking to exercise their internationally recognized rights and freedoms since October 2019; or

(B) acted as an agent of or on behalf of a foreign person that committed such violations;

(2) a list of units of the Iraqi Security Forces with respect to which the Secretary of State has credible information that such units have committed gross violations of human rights in Iraq since October 2019; and

(3) a certification that such units will not receive training, equipment, or other assistance from the United States, consistent with section 620M of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2378d) and section 362 of title 10, United States Code.

(b) PERSONS LISTED.—The persons listed in this subsection are the following:

(2) Chief of staff to Prime Minister Adil Abdulmahdi, Abu Jihad (birth name Mohammed al-Hashimi).

(3) Head of Asa’ib Ahl al-Haq, Qais al-Khazali.


(5) Adviser for PMF Affairs to Prime Minister Abdulmahdi, Abu Muntadher al-Husseini (birth name Tahseen Abid Mutar al-Abboudi).

(6) Head of the Interior Ministry’s Rapid Response Division, Abu Turab al-Husseini (birth name Thamir Mohammad Ismail).

(7) Commander of Saraya Talia al-Kurasani (PMF Brigade 18), Hamid al-Jazayeri.

(8) Commander of Kataib Sayyid al-Shuhada (PMF Brigade 14), Abu Ala al-Walai (birth name Hashim Bunyan al-Siraji).

(9) Head of the PMF Intelligence Directorate, Abu Iman al-Bahali.