

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3015

To reduce the number of members of the Armed Forces stationed in certain foreign countries with which the United States does not have a proper and enforceable Status of Forces Agreement, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 2023

Mr. LALOTA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Armed Services

---

## A BILL

To reduce the number of members of the Armed Forces stationed in certain foreign countries with which the United States does not have a proper and enforceable Status of Forces Agreement, 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 “Safeguarding Our  
5 Forces Abroad Act” or the “SOFA Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REDUCTION OF PERSONNEL STATIONED IN FOR-**  
2 **EIGN COUNTRIES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date that is 180  
4 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
5 retary of Defense shall reduce, at a rate of 1 percent each  
6 month, the number of members of the Armed Forces sta-  
7 tioned in each covered foreign country with which a bind-  
8 ing and enforceable Status of Forces Agreement is not in  
9 place that—

10 (1) prohibits the government of such country,  
11 including any jurisdiction within such country, from  
12 undertaking pretrial detention of any member of the  
13 Armed Forces subject to an accusation of commit-  
14 ting a non-violent crime;

15 (2) guarantees to any member of the Armed  
16 Forces who is accused of a crime and whose liberty  
17 is at risk the right to immediately have access to  
18 and the presence of counsel of choice during all  
19 stages of the legal process, including investigations  
20 and interrogations;

21 (3) guarantees to any member of the Armed  
22 Forces who is accused of a crime and whose liberty  
23 is at risk the right to immediately have access to ap-  
24 propriate language translation services; and

25 (4) guarantees that any such accused member  
26 of the Armed Forces may not be compelled to be a

1 witness against themselves and will be protected  
2 from confessions obtained through torture, coercion,  
3 threats, violence, or any means of improper influ-  
4 ence.

5 (b) COVERED FOREIGN COUNTRY.—In this section,  
6 the term “covered foreign country” means a foreign coun-  
7 try in which at least 1,000 members of the Armed Forces  
8 were stationed in the previous fiscal year.

9 (c) WAIVER.—The requirement to draw down the  
10 number of members of the Armed Forces stationed in a  
11 covered foreign country under subsection (a) may be  
12 waived if the Secretary of Defense certifies to the Chair  
13 and Ranking Member of the Committees on Armed Serv-  
14 ices of the House of Representatives and of the Senate  
15 that it is in the national security interests of the United  
16 States to avoid such a reduction in forces.

○