

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4034

To withhold certain United Nations funding until the United Nations Human Rights Council mandates a body to investigate human rights abuses in the People’s Republic of China, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 21, 2024

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To withhold certain United Nations funding until the United Nations Human Rights Council mandates a body to investigate human rights abuses in the People’s Republic of China, 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 “No Bystanders at the
5 United Nations Human Rights Council Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) According to the United Nations System
2 Chief Executives Board for Coordination, the United
3 States Government contributed \$18,095,456,587 to
4 the United Nations system in 2022, the most recent
5 year for which the United Nations has made data
6 available.

7 (2) The United States is the single largest fi-
8 nancial contributor to the United Nations system.

9 (3) All United Nations member states must cer-
10 tify that they will adhere to the United Nations
11 Charter, Chapter 1, Article 1, which states that the
12 United Nations will promote and encourage respect
13 for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for
14 all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or
15 religion.

16 (4) The United Nations Human Rights Council
17 (in this Act referred to as the “Council”) is respon-
18 sible for strengthening the promotion and protection
19 of human rights around the globe and for addressing
20 situations of human rights violations and making
21 recommendations on them.

22 (5) The Council possesses the power to estab-
23 lish independent investigative bodies to respond to
24 situations of serious violations of international hu-
25 manitarian law and international human rights law.

1 (6) The Council has never established an inde-
2 pendent body to investigate the human rights abuses
3 of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in the Peo-
4 ple’s Republic of China (PRC). The Council’s failure
5 to establish a body to investigate the human rights
6 abuses of the CCP constitutes bystander behavior.

7 (7) Following the Council’s 2018 Universal
8 Periodic Review (UPR) of China, Former United
9 Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
10 Michelle Bachelet wrote a letter to Former Chinese
11 Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi welcoming his
12 government’s efforts to promote and protect human
13 rights.

14 (8) The Council has established 38 investigative
15 bodies since the Council was created in 2006.

16 (9) The Council has established an independent
17 investigative body to investigate Israel nine times.

18 (10) The CCP has committed a number of
19 grave human rights violations, including—

20 (A) the forced labor of ethnic Uyghur and
21 other Muslims in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autono-
22 mous Region, as detailed in the Uyghur Human
23 Rights Policy Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–
24 145);

1 (B) mass arrests of pro-democracy advo-
2 cates peacefully exercising their freedoms of as-
3 sembly and expression in Hong Kong; and

4 (C) widespread censorship and detainment
5 of citizens protesting draconian “zero-COVID”
6 restrictions.

7 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

8 It is the sense of Congress that—

9 (1) the human rights abuses of the CCP war-
10 rant investigation by the Council;

11 (2) the Council’s failure to investigate the
12 human rights abuses of the CCP contradicts the
13 purpose of the United Nations stated in the United
14 Nations Charter, Chapter 1, Article 1; and

15 (3) the United States should not provide fund-
16 ing for the Council until it fulfills its stated respon-
17 sibilities by establishing an independent investigative
18 body to adequately examine the human rights abuses
19 of the CCP.

20 **SEC. 4. WITHHOLDING OF UNITED NATIONS FUNDING.**

21 (a) ANNUAL UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTIONS TO
22 REGULAR BUDGET OF UNITED NATIONS.—The Secretary
23 of State shall withhold from annual United States con-
24 tributions to the regular budget of the United Nations an
25 amount equal to the amount the Secretary determines

1 would be allocated by the United Nations to support the
2 United Nations Human Rights Council until the Secretary
3 certifies to Congress that the United Nations Human
4 Rights Council has mandated a body to investigate human
5 rights abuses in the People's Republic of China.

6 (b) PROHIBITION ON VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS
7 TO BUDGET OF UNHRC.—The Secretary of State may
8 not make voluntary contributions to the budget of the
9 United Nations Human Rights Council until the Secretary
10 certifies to Congress that the United Nations Human
11 Rights Council has mandated a body to investigate human
12 rights abuses in the People's Republic of China.

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