

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6910

To prohibit United States assistance from being made available before the implementation of conditions under the 2013 Brussels Agreement, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 2, 2024

Ms. TENNEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To prohibit United States assistance from being made available before the implementation of conditions under the 2013 Brussels 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 “Backing the Agreed-
5 upon Compromises by Kosovo Imposed by the Negotiated
6 Guarantees of the 2013 Brussels Agreement” or the
7 “BACKING the 2013 Brussels Agreement Act”.

8 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

9 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) In 2013, the European Union moderated
2 talks between Kosovo and Serbia to normalize rela-
3 tions between the two countries which required—

4 (A) the establishment of an Association/
5 Community of Serb-majority Municipalities to
6 ensure the rights of Kosovo Serbs;

7 (B) one police force for all of Kosovo, with
8 regional commanders in Serb-majority areas to
9 be a Kosovo Serb chosen from a list provided
10 by the municipality; and

11 (C) Kosovo Serbs comprise a majority of
12 certain judicial panels in Serb-majority areas.

13 (2) After a decade, the Association/Community
14 of Serb-majority Municipalities has still not been
15 created by Kosovo in violation of the 2013 Brussels
16 Agreement.

17 (3) Kosovo Serbs are frustrated by the lack of
18 progress in establishing this Association/Community
19 of Serb-majority Municipalities and as a result pro-
20 tested local elections in April 2023.

21 (4) In Serb-majority municipalities the turnout
22 rate reached only 3.39 percent, with most voters
23 being Kosovo Albanians.

1 (5) Despite the lack of turnout, Kosovo Alba-
2 nian mayors were installed by special police, in viola-
3 tion of the 2013 Brussels Agreement.

4 (6) The United States has provided Kosovo
5 with over \$2,000,000,000 in foreign aid since 1999.

6 (7) As the United States Ambassador to
7 Kosovo, Jeffrey Hovenier, put it, this aid was “to
8 ensure that all Kosovans can access effective and ac-
9 countable services from their institutions, are em-
10 powered to demand accountability for these services,
11 and can thrive through strong economic and demo-
12 cratic opportunities”.

13 (8) Despite this intention, Kosovo has repeat-
14 edly discriminated against Kosovo Serbs including—

15 (A) repossessing cars with Serbian license
16 plates;

17 (B) removing clothing with Serbian lan-
18 guage on it from Kosovo Serbs;

19 (C) harassment of Kosovo Serbs by the
20 Kosovo Security Force;

21 (D) prejudice against Kosovo Serbs in the
22 civil service and labor markets;

23 (E) denial of fair public trials and lengthy
24 pre-trial sentences; and

1 (F) failing to execute court rulings in favor
2 of Kosovo Serbs, particularly in property re-
3 lated disputes.

4 (9) Kosovo Serb civil society organizations have
5 raised concerns about the criminalization of “the ex-
6 pression of political views, which is a universal
7 human right guaranteed by international conven-
8 tions, as well as the constitution and laws of
9 Kosovo”.

10 (10) Kosovo’s refusal to uphold the 2013 Brus-
11 sels Agreement is contributing to the destabilization
12 of the region and increasing tensions within the Bal-
13 kans.

14 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

15 It is the sense of Congress that—

16 (1) the actions by the Kosovan Government and
17 Prime Minister Albin Kurti including the forcible
18 implementation of mayors, oppression of human
19 rights, and discrimination against Kosovo-Serbs in
20 the justice system, labor market, and civil service
21 is—

22 (A) in violation of international conven-
23 tions;

24 (B) in violation of Kosovan laws;

1 (C) in violation of the 2013 Brussels
2 Agreement; and

3 (D) contrary to the ideals of the United
4 States such as rule of law, democracy, self-de-
5 termination, and minority rights;

6 (2) the actions by Kosovo undermine global ef-
7 forts to achieve peace and stability in Eastern Eu-
8 rope and the Balkans;

9 (3) Kosovo's destabilization of the Balkans
10 could lead to a regional war; and

11 (4) the United States rejects these undemo-
12 cratic actions that repress human rights and polit-
13 ical freedoms.

14 **SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

15 It is the policy of the United States not to support
16 the Government of Kosovo's—

17 (1) failure to implement and adhere to the
18 2013 Brussels Agreement;

19 (2) ethnic discrimination of Kosovo Serbs
20 through unequal treatment in the justice system,
21 and lack of access to the labor market in violation
22 of international law;

23 (3) the seizure or appropriation of Kosovo
24 Serbs' private property; and

1 (4) repression of the human right to freedom of
2 speech, including the right to express political views.

3 **SEC. 5. LIMITATION ON ASSISTANCE.**

4 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no
5 United States assistance is authorized to be appropriated
6 or otherwise made available to the Government of Kosovo
7 until each of the following conditions are met:

8 (1) The Government of Kosovo implements the
9 conditions required by the 2013 Brussels Agreement,
10 including the creation of the Association/Community
11 of Serb-majority Municipalities.

12 (2) Special police are removed from northern
13 Kosovo.

14 (3) New mayoral elections are held in northern
15 Kosovo.

16 (4) The seizure of Kosovo Serb's private prop-
17 erty, such as cars and clothing, is halted.

18 (5) Freedom of political expression is respected
19 and upheld for all ethnicities in Kosovo.

20 **SEC. 6. OVERSIGHT AND ADDITIONAL REPORTING.**

21 Beginning with the first report submitted pursuant
22 to section 116 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22
23 U.S.C. 2151n) after the date of the enactment of this Act,
24 the Secretary of State shall include in each report required
25 by such section a description of the nature and extent—

1 (1) of discrimination and harassment faced by
2 Kosovo Serbs by the government and police forces of
3 Kosovo; and

4 (2) of the progress made by the Government of
5 Kosovo in meeting the requirements established by
6 section 5 of this Act.

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