

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 779

To restrict United States nationals from traveling to countries in which foreign governments or anti-government forces allow foreign terrorist organizations to engage in armed conflict for purposes of participating in such armed conflict or from providing material support to entities that are engaged in such armed conflict, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 31, 2017

Mr. WITTMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To restrict United States nationals from traveling to countries in which foreign governments or anti-government forces allow foreign terrorist organizations to engage in armed conflict for purposes of participating in such armed conflict or from providing material support to entities that are engaged in such armed conflict, 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 “International Conflicts
5 of Concern Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. IDENTIFICATION OF COUNTRIES OF CONFLICT**
2 **CONCERN.**

3 (a) IDENTIFICATION.—Not later than 180 days after
4 the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall
5 submit to Congress a report that identifies each country
6 the government of which or anti-government forces in
7 which the President believes, based on all information
8 available to the President, is allowing one or more foreign
9 terrorist organizations to engage in armed conflict that is
10 occurring in such country.

11 (b) UPDATES.—The President shall update the re-
12 port required under subsection (a)—

13 (1) as new information becomes available; and

14 (2) not less frequently than semi-annually.

15 (c) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a)
16 and the updates required under subsection (b) shall be
17 submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classi-
18 fied annex if necessary.

19 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF COUNTRIES OF CONFLICT CON-**
20 **CERN.**

21 (a) DESIGNATION.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall des-
23 ignate a country as a “Country of Conflict Concern”
24 if the President determines that—

25 (A) the government of such country or
26 anti-government forces in the country is allow-

1 ing one or more foreign terrorist organizations
2 to engage in armed conflict that is occurring in
3 such country as identified in the report required
4 under section 2(a) or any update to the report
5 required under section 2(b); and

6 (B) it is in the national security interest of
7 the United States to restrict travel by any
8 United States national to such country and to
9 restrict material support provided by United
10 States nationals to entities that are engaged in
11 armed conflict in such country.

12 (2) INITIAL DESIGNATION.—Syria shall be
13 deemed to have been designated by the President
14 under paragraph (1) as of the date of the enactment
15 of this Act and the President is not required to no-
16 tify Congress of such designation of Syria under
17 subsection (b).

18 (b) REPORT ON DESIGNATION.—Upon designating a
19 country as a Country of Conflict Concern under subsection
20 (a), the President shall submit to Congress a report noti-
21 fying Congress of the designation of the country.

22 (c) LICENSING REQUIREMENT.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to any country
24 designated as a Country of Conflict Concern under
25 subsection (a), the President shall exercise the au-

1 thorities of the International Emergency Economic
2 Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705 et seq.) without regard
3 to section 202 of such Act to require a United
4 States national to obtain a license—

5 (A) to travel to such country; or

6 (B) to provide material support to entities
7 that are engaged in armed conflict in such
8 country.

9 (2) EXCEPTION.—The requirement to obtain a
10 license under paragraph (1) shall not apply with re-
11 spect to a United States national who is a full-time
12 officer or employee of the United States Government
13 for purposes of carrying out official business of the
14 United States Government.

15 (d) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in sub-
16 sections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International
17 Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall
18 apply to a person who violates paragraph (1) or (2) of
19 subsection (c), or a regulation prescribed under this Act,
20 to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person
21 that commits an unlawful act described in section 206(a)
22 of that Act (50 U.S.C. 1705(a)).

23 (e) TERMINATION OF DESIGNATION.—The designa-
24 tion of a country as a Country of Conflict Concern under

1 subsection (a) shall terminate on the date on which the
2 President submits to Congress a report that contains—

3 (1) a determination and certification that sub-
4 paragraph (A) or (B) of subsection (a)(1) (as the
5 case may be), or both, no longer applies with respect
6 to the country; and

7 (2) a justification for the determination and
8 certification.

9 **SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.**

10 The President is authorized to promulgate such regu-
11 lations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions
12 of this Act, including the promulgation of such regulations
13 under the authority of section 205 of the International
14 Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1704).

15 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

16 In this Act:

17 (1) **FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION.**—The
18 term “foreign terrorist organization” means any or-
19 ganization so designated by the Secretary of State
20 under section 219 of the Immigration and Nation-
21 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189).

22 (2) **UNITED STATES NATIONAL.**—The term
23 “United States national” means—

1 (A) a national of the United States (as de-
2 fined in section 101(a)(22) of the Immigration
3 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(22)); or

4 (B) an alien who is lawfully present in the
5 United States.

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