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To protect individuals who face reprisals for defending human rights and democracy by enhancing the capacity of the United States Government to prevent, mitigate, and respond in such cases, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 31, 2024

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. WELCH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To protect individuals who face reprisals for defending human rights and democracy by enhancing the capacity of the United States Government to prevent, mitigate, and respond in such cases, 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 “Human Rights Defend-
5 ers Protection Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Around the world, human rights defenders
2 form the backbone of democratic societies and move-
3 ments, advocating for human rights and political
4 freedoms, protecting the environment, fighting cor-
5 ruption, and supporting good governance, inde-
6 pendent media, and labor rights.

7 (2) Reprisals against human rights defenders
8 are on the rise as autocratic and illiberal regimes in-
9 creasingly target human rights defenders with fab-
10 ricated legal charges, threats and violence for exer-
11 cising civil, political, economic, social, and cultural
12 rights, often collaborating with transnational crimi-
13 nal organizations, paramilitary groups, private sector
14 actors, and others to carry out such reprisals.

15 (3) According to the United Nations High Com-
16 missioner for Human Rights, every year hundreds of
17 human rights defenders are murdered and thousands
18 more are subjected to torture, enforced disappear-
19 ance, sexual violence, hate crimes, unlawful or arbi-
20 trary detention, judicial harassment, unlawful or ar-
21 bitrary digital surveillance, and forced exile.

22 (4) The lack of accountability for attacks on
23 human rights defenders engenders further violence
24 and leaves human rights defenders hesitant or un-
25 able to continue their work out of fear of retaliation.

1 (5) Foreign governments are no longer oppress-
2 ing only individuals within the borders of their coun-
3 tries and are increasingly resorting to transnational
4 repression tactics, both digital and physical, to tar-
5 get human rights defenders outside of their coun-
6 tries of origin, often where such human rights de-
7 fenders are seeking asylum or temporary refuge.

8 (6) Human rights defenders facing the highest
9 levels of violence include individuals advocating for
10 land rights and environmental issues, Indigenous
11 communities, the freedoms of expression, assembly,
12 and association, minority communities, and
13 LGBTQI+, women's, youth, and religious rights.

14 (7) Environmental human rights defenders are
15 vulnerable to reprisals because such human rights
16 defenders pose challenges to financial interests and
17 often live in remote areas where government over-
18 sight is weak and powerful actors can use corrupt
19 practices and brute force to seize resources with im-
20 punity.

21 (8) Women human rights defenders often face
22 additional grave risks, including gender-based vio-
23 lence, reprisals against their children, use of digital
24 disinformation campaigns against them, and stig-

1 matization from their families, workplaces, and com-
2 munities.

3 (9) Many human rights defenders who have
4 been forced into exile desire to continue their advoca-
5 cy from abroad, yet such human rights defenders
6 lack the legal protections and support they need to
7 continue such advocacy.

8 (10) The United States has a strong legacy of
9 supporting human rights defenders. Given the rising
10 number of human rights defenders at risk, the
11 United States should elevate and enhance such sup-
12 port, especially at embassies, consulates, and foreign
13 missions of the United States.

14 (11) The training and guidance for individuals
15 and organizations working with the United States
16 Government, including members of the Foreign
17 Service, on recognizing and responding to reprisals
18 against human rights defenders is insufficient, lead-
19 ing to ad hoc and inconsistent responses, while
20 human rights defenders who are at risk are fre-
21 quently unaware of how to safely work with United
22 States officials abroad and the resources that are
23 available to human rights defenders.

24 (12) The United States has neither a coherent
25 strategy to strengthen protections for human rights

1 defenders, nor adequate measures to prevent and re-
2 spond to cases in which members of foreign security
3 forces, law enforcement, judicial institutions, crimi-
4 nal groups, or private companies contribute to at-
5 tacks on human rights defenders. The United States
6 also lacks adequate consular resources and authori-
7 ties to facilitate temporary evacuation of human
8 rights defenders facing immediate lethal danger.

9 (13) While the United States possesses multiple
10 tools to hold perpetrators of reprisals accountable,
11 including sanctions, export controls, visa restrictions,
12 and diplomatic pressure, the United States deploys
13 such tools unevenly and without clear connections to
14 a broader strategic framework to strengthen protec-
15 tions for human rights defenders.

16 (14) Given the dramatic increase in attacks on
17 human rights defenders globally, the current ap-
18 proach by the United States Government to address
19 such attacks is insufficient to adequately respond to
20 the threats human rights defenders face, weakening
21 the ability of the United States to advance human
22 rights and democratic principles, respond to the cli-
23 mate crisis, counter corruption, and combat
24 transnational crime.

1 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act—

3 (1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-**
4 **TEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional com-
5 mittees” means the Committee on Foreign Relations
6 of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs
7 of the House of Representatives.

8 (2) **DEMOCRACY ADVOCATE AT RISK.**—The
9 term “democracy advocate at risk” means a human
10 rights defender or other individual engaging in
11 peaceful democratic advocacy or political protest who
12 participates in the Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fel-
13 lows Program.

14 (3) **HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER.**—

15 (A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “human
16 rights defender” means an individual, working
17 alone or in a group, who uses nonviolent means
18 to promote or protect human rights and funda-
19 mental freedoms, in a manner consistent with
20 the principles described in the United Nations
21 Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

22 (B) **INCLUSIONS.**—The term “human
23 rights defender” may include members of civil
24 society organizations, journalists, activists, law-
25 yers, community leaders, land and environ-
26 mental defenders, labor leaders and activists,

1 anti-corruption activists, whistleblowers, polit-
2 ical prisoners, members of opposition political
3 parties, and any other individual engaging in
4 peaceful advocacy, actions, or political protest.

5 (4) REPRISAL.—The term “reprisal” means an
6 act or omission that—

7 (A) violates, intends to violate, or encour-
8 ages a violation of the rights of a human rights
9 defender; or

10 (B) otherwise prevents a human rights de-
11 fender from carrying out his or her work.

12 (5) UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON HUMAN
13 RIGHTS DEFENDERS.—The term “United Nations
14 Declaration on Human Rights Defenders” means
15 the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of
16 Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Pro-
17 mote and Protect Universally Recognized Human
18 Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (United Nations
19 General Assembly Resolution 53/144 (1998)), adopt-
20 ed by the United Nations General Assembly on De-
21 cember 9, 1998.

22 **SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

23 It shall be the policy of the United States—

24 (1) to reaffirm the commitment of the United
25 States to—

1 (A) the Universal Declaration of Human
2 Rights, adopted by the United Nations on De-
3 cember 10, 1948;

4 (B) the United Nations Declaration on
5 Human Rights Defenders; and

6 (C) human rights defenders, who, often at
7 great risk to themselves, work nonviolently to
8 protect and advance human rights and demo-
9 cratic principles;

10 (2) to integrate support for human rights de-
11 fenders and democracy advocates and their protec-
12 tion from reprisals as part of bilateral and multilat-
13 eral diplomatic, development, defense, economic, law
14 enforcement, security assistance, export control, cli-
15 mate, and anti-corruption activities of the United
16 States;

17 (3) to engage with the private sector to respect,
18 support, and, when possible, protect human rights
19 defenders and prevent human rights violations
20 throughout business operations, investments, and
21 supply chains in accordance with the Guiding Prin-
22 ciples on Business and Human Rights published by
23 the United Nations High Commissioner for Human
24 Rights and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational
25 Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct;

1 (4) to work in solidarity with front-line human
2 rights defenders and democracy advocates to inte-
3 grate prevention, mitigation, and response measures
4 into development and foreign assistance activities to
5 strengthen physical and digital safety, well-being,
6 protection measures, and the resiliency of local orga-
7 nizations in the country of concern;

8 (5) to assist human rights defenders and their
9 immediate family members living in exile so they can
10 safely continue their work, free from threats or acts
11 of transnational repression;

12 (6) to end impunity for reprisals against human
13 rights defenders by strengthening accountability for
14 perpetrators, including through appropriate inves-
15 tigation and prosecutions, exercise of sanctions au-
16 thorities such as the Global Magnitsky Human
17 Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.),
18 and support for other mechanisms and measures;

19 (7) to strengthen access to justice and provide
20 legal representation for human rights defenders;

21 (8) to affirm that support for human rights de-
22 fenders and their protection from reprisals is central
23 to the policy interests of the United States; and

24 (9) to coordinate assistance strategies and di-
25 rect assistance for human rights defenders with bi-

1 lateral partners, non-governmental foundations and
2 charities, and other advocates and service providers.

3 **SEC. 5. GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFEND-**
4 **ERS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
6 date of the enactment of this Act, and once every 3 years
7 thereafter, the President, in consultation with the heads
8 of relevant Federal agencies, shall develop and submit to
9 the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive
10 interagency strategy to support and protect human rights
11 defenders abroad to be known as the Global Human
12 Rights Defenders Strategy (referred to in this section as
13 the “Strategy”).

14 (b) ELEMENTS OF THE STRATEGY.—The Strategy
15 shall include detailed information on the following ele-
16 ments:

17 (1) An assessment of tools and resources avail-
18 able at United States embassies and missions to
19 support human rights defenders, including—

20 (A) measures to monitor and respond to
21 reprisals against human rights defenders, in-
22 cluding human rights defenders located outside
23 of their country, and their immediate family
24 members; and

1 (B) information on implementation of the
2 training required by subparagraph (E) of sec-
3 tion 708(a)(1) of the Foreign Service Act of
4 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4028(a)(1)), as added by sec-
5 tion 8.

6 (2) Bolstering the ability of United States em-
7 bassies and missions to prioritize the protection of
8 human rights defenders, including—

9 (A) ensuring the policy objectives described
10 in section 4 are addressed in each country-spe-
11 cific Integrated Country Strategy of the De-
12 partment of State;

13 (B) developing guidance for United States
14 embassies and missions on assessing when and
15 how to prevent and respond to reprisals against
16 human rights defenders, including in countries
17 that host human rights defenders in exile;

18 (C) identifying a designated point of con-
19 tact at each United States embassy or mission
20 who—

21 (i) reports directly to the chief of mis-
22 sion; and

23 (ii) shall be responsible for—

24 (I) conducting regular consulta-
25 tions with human rights defenders, in-

1 including individuals based outside of
2 major urban areas, individuals who
3 are not members of registered civil so-
4 ciety organizations, and individuals in
5 exile, consistent with measures to en-
6 sure the protection of such individ-
7 uals;

8 (II) tracking patterns of reprisals
9 and managing responses to reprisals,
10 including by assessing the impact of
11 such responses; and

12 (III) immediately notifying the
13 chief of mission, the head of the rel-
14 evant regional bureau of the Depart-
15 ment of State and the United States
16 Agency for International Develop-
17 ment, the Director of the Bureau of
18 Democracy, Human Rights, and
19 Labor, and the Assistant to the Ad-
20 ministrator for the Bureau of Democ-
21 racy, Human Rights, and Governance
22 in the event of any imminent threat to
23 the life or grave threat to the personal
24 safety of a human rights defender;

1 (D) publishing guidelines in local lan-
2 guages on the website of each United States
3 embassy and mission on how to reach relevant
4 embassy points of contact;

5 (E) integrating consideration of reprisals
6 against human rights defenders into engage-
7 ments by United States embassies and missions
8 with the private sector, and foreign govern-
9 ments;

10 (F) including requests for any additional
11 resources needed to engage with and support
12 human rights defenders in annual Mission Re-
13 source Requests;

14 (G) acknowledging and rewarding efforts
15 by United States diplomatic personnel, includ-
16 ing Foreign Service officers from the United
17 States Agency for International Development
18 and the Department of State, to protect human
19 rights defenders as part of annual performance
20 reviews;

21 (H) strengthening the efforts of host coun-
22 tries to bolster human rights, protect human
23 rights defenders, and prevent human rights
24 abuses and violations; and

1 (I) identifying additional authorities or ca-
2 pabilities that need to be developed to address
3 the growing threats facing human rights de-
4 fenders.

5 (3) Seeking to reduce impunity for reprisals
6 against human rights defenders by strengthening ac-
7 countability for perpetrators, including—

8 (A) using diplomatic engagement to en-
9 courage foreign governments to investigate and
10 prosecute persons who order, plan, and carry
11 out reprisals;

12 (B) using diplomatic engagement to re-
13 spond to patterns of non-lethal reprisals that
14 have an adverse impact on civic space, including
15 the criminalization of nonviolent advocacy,
16 smear campaigns, and illegal surveillance; and

17 (C) increasing support for multilateral ini-
18 tiatives that seek to curb the misuse of tech-
19 nologies by foreign governments to monitor,
20 harass, or threaten human rights defenders and
21 their families.

22 (4) How the United States intends to imple-
23 ment the policy objectives under section 4, includ-
24 ing—

25 (A) specific and measurable goals;

1 (B) metrics to measure progress against
2 such goals; and

3 (C) a timeline for implementation.

4 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—In implementing the Strat-
5 egy, the President shall—

6 (1) designate an employee of the National Secu-
7 rity Council to be responsible for the coordination of
8 the interagency process for implementing the Strat-
9 egy;

10 (2) require each relevant Federal agency to pro-
11 vide a specific implementation plan for the Strategy;
12 and

13 (3) regularly consult with relevant human
14 rights defenders and civil society organizations both
15 in the United States and abroad on the design and
16 implementation of the Strategy.

17 (d) FORM AND AVAILABILITY.—

18 (1) FORM.—The Strategy shall be submitted in
19 unclassified form, but may include a classified
20 annex, if necessary.

21 (2) BRIEFING.—Not later than 30 days prior to
22 publication of the Strategy in accordance with para-
23 graph (3), the Under Secretary for Civilian Security,
24 Democracy, and Human Rights, in consultation with
25 the Assistant to the Administrator for Democracy,

1 Human Rights, and Governance, shall brief the ap-
2 propriate congressional committees on the Strategy.

3 (3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The unclassified
4 portion of the Strategy shall be made available to
5 the public, including through publication in the Fed-
6 eral Register.

7 **SEC. 6. NONIMMIGRANT VISAS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DE-**
8 **FENDERS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(a) of the Immigra-
10 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)) is amended—

11 (1) in paragraph (15)—

12 (A) in subparagraph (U)(iii), by striking “;
13 or” and inserting a semicolon;

14 (B) in subparagraph (V)(ii)(II), by striking
15 the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

16 (C) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(W)(i) subject to section 214(t), an alien
18 who—

19 “(I) demonstrates a credible fear of
20 an urgent threat to his or her physical
21 safety by a state or nonstate actor in the
22 alien’s country of nationality or last habit-
23 ual residence based on the nature of the
24 alien’s work as a human rights defender,

1 including formal and informal employment
2 and volunteer activities; and

3 “(II) has not advocated violence or
4 terrorism; and

5 “(ii) the children and spouse or part-
6 ner of the alien described in clause (i) if
7 accompanying, or following to join, such
8 alien.”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(53) The term ‘urgent threat’, with respect to
11 an individual described in paragraph (15)(W)(i)(I),
12 means any action, communication, or threat made
13 against the individual that causes or has the intent
14 to cause physical, legal, financial, psychological, or
15 reputational harm.”.

16 (b) APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION.—Section 214 of
17 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184) is
18 amended by adding at the end the following:

19 “(t)(1) In the case of a nonimmigrant described in
20 section 101(a)(15)(W)—

21 “(A) the Secretary of State shall issue a visa
22 that is valid for 1 or more admissions to the United
23 States during a 3-year period; and

24 “(B) the Secretary of Homeland Security shall
25 authorize the alien to engage in employment in the

1 United States during the period of authorized ad-
2 mission and shall provide the alien with an ‘employ-
3 ment authorized’ endorsement or other appropriate
4 document signifying authorizing employment.

5 “(2) In determining whether an alien is eligible
6 to be admitted to the United States as a non-
7 immigrant under section 101(a)(15)(W)(i)—

8 “(A) a foreign service officer, outside of
9 consular services, including political and eco-
10 nomic officers and officers of the United States
11 Agency for International Development, located
12 at the United States Embassy in the country
13 concerned, an official in the Bureau for Democ-
14 racy, Human Rights and Labor, or an official
15 of Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and
16 Governance, may submit a visa referral for the
17 alien to the United States consulate in the
18 country concerned;

19 “(B) a consular officer, located at the
20 United States Embassy or consulate in the
21 country concerned—

22 “(i) shall conduct an interview of the
23 alien not later than 72 hours after the
24 alien submits an application for admission
25 as a nonimmigrant under that section;

1 “(ii) shall make a determination with
2 respect to whether the alien’s fear of an
3 urgent threat is credible within the context
4 of such country; and

5 “(iii) shall consult with and seek ref-
6 erences from relevant national or inter-
7 national human rights organizations or the
8 United Nations with respect to the alien,
9 including references suggested by the alien
10 and the referring human rights officer; and

11 “(C) the Bureau of Consular Affairs shall
12 carry out all security screening through the ap-
13 propriate databases.

14 “(3) An unmarried alien who seeks to accom-
15 pany or follow to join a parent granted status under
16 section 101(a)(15)(W)(i), and who was under 21
17 years of age on the date on which such parent ap-
18 plied for such status, shall continue to be classified
19 as a child for purposes of section 101(a)(15)(W)(ii),
20 if the alien attains 21 years of age after such par-
21 ent’s application was filed, but while it was pending.

22 “(4)(A) The number of aliens who may be
23 issued visas or otherwise provided status as non-
24 immigrants under section 101(a) (15)(W) in any fis-
25 cal year shall not exceed 500.

1 “(B) The numerical limitation in subparagraph
2 (A) shall only apply to principal aliens described in
3 section 101(a)(15)(W)(i) and not to the children or
4 spouses or partners of such aliens.”.

5 **SEC. 7. HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICERS.**

6 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
7 gress that the Secretary of State should—

8 (1) increase the number of Foreign Service offi-
9 cer positions dedicated to democracy and human
10 rights graded at mid-level rank levels and posted to
11 missions in countries facing complex democracy and
12 human rights crises, including countries facing high
13 levels of violence against human rights defenders;
14 and

15 (2) increase the number of democracy, human
16 rights, and labor positions graded at mid-level rank
17 levels at overseas posts, incorporating recommenda-
18 tions from the Director of the Bureau of Democracy,
19 Human Rights, and Labor regarding scope of work
20 and the location of posts.

21 (b) RECLASSIFICATION TO MID-LEVEL.—

22 (1) RECOMMENDATION.—Not later than 90
23 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
24 Secretary of State shall submit a recommendation to
25 the appropriate congressional committees to reclass-

1 sify not less than 10 human rights officers to the
2 FS-3, -2, or -1 level.

3 (2) RECLASSIFICATION.—Not later than 270
4 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, not
5 less than 10 human rights officers shall be reclassi-
6 fied in accordance with this section.

7 (c) INCREASED HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICERS AT
8 POSTS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
10 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
11 retary shall increase the number of personnel who
12 are responsible for democracy and human rights
13 issues, with the goal of having at least one officer
14 dedicated to democracy and human rights at every
15 mission.

16 (2) RESPONSIBILITY.—The Bureau of Democ-
17 racy, Human Rights, and Labor shall lead selection
18 and placement of such officers at diplomatic mis-
19 sions, consulting with regional bureaus.

20 (d) DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE TRAINING.—De-
21 mocracy, human rights, and governance should be a core
22 competency course for foreign service officers at each level
23 of required training, including those at the entry (A-100),
24 mid, and Senior Foreign Service levels.

1 **SEC. 8. PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AT MUL-**
2 **TILATERAL AND REGIONAL BODIES.**

3 The Secretary of State and the United States Perma-
4 nent Representative to the United Nations shall use the
5 voice, vote, and influence of the United States at the
6 United Nations, international financial institutions, re-
7 gional bodies, and other multilateral bodies—

8 (1) to promote full participation and oppose ef-
9 forts that prevent the full participation of human
10 rights defenders or block the accreditation of bona
11 fide human rights organizations seeking consultative
12 status at such institutions and bodies;

13 (2) to ensure that such institutions and bodies
14 bolster the protection and safe participation of
15 human rights defenders who are subject to
16 transnational repression, state harassment, and re-
17 prisals;

18 (3) to increase monitoring and reporting to
19 identify and track reprisals against human rights de-
20 fenders, including human rights defenders who en-
21 gage with such institutions and bodies;

22 (4) to urge member states to engage with the
23 United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation
24 of human rights defenders (referred to in this sec-
25 tion as the “Special Rapporteur”), to cooperate with
26 the Special Rapporteur, and to take steps to imple-

1 ment the recommendations of the Special
2 Rapporteur; and

3 (5) to support the use of targeted sanctions,
4 censure of member states, and all diplomatic tools
5 available to hold responsible persons that engage in
6 reprisals against human rights defenders.

7 **SEC. 9. SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRACY ADVOCATES AT-RISK.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Congress—

9 (1) recognizes the importance of democracy ad-
10 vocates at risk who support democracy, human
11 rights, transparency and the rule of law; and

12 (2) remains gravely concerned about concerted
13 efforts by state and non-state actors to constrain the
14 activities of democracy advocates at risk through re-
15 prisals that are intended to frustrate or halt legiti-
16 mate activities.

17 (b) FELLOWSHIPS FOR DEMOCRACY ADVOCATES AT
18 RISK.—The National Endowment for Democracy is au-
19 thorized to expand the Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows
20 Program to provide additional fellowships, including in
21 partnership with other institutions and organizations, to
22 support democracy advocates at risk.

1 **SEC. 10. ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS**
2 **PRACTICES.**

3 Section 116(f)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of
4 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151n(f)(1)) is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as sub-
6 paragraph (E); and

7 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(C) A description of the treatment of
10 human rights defenders (as defined in section 3
11 of the Human Rights Defenders Protection Act
12 of 2024) in each foreign country, including pat-
13 terns of reprisals (as defined in such section)
14 against human rights defenders residing in-
15 country, including information on the under-
16 lying types of activities targeted and the types
17 of tactics being used and descriptions of specific
18 cases in which the relevant human rights de-
19 fender or family member of such human rights
20 defender has provided prior consent.

21 “(D) When feasible, details on the total
22 number of investigations opened into reprisals
23 against human rights defenders, including, for
24 such reprisals, the number of prosecutions, the
25 details of the individuals sentenced, and the
26 percentage of individuals acquitted.”.

1 **SEC. 11. TRAINING.**

2 Section 708(a)(1) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980
3 (22 U.S.C. 4028(a)(1)) is amended—

4 (1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at
5 the end;

6 (2) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period
7 at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

8 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
9 paragraph:

10 “(E) for Foreign Service Officers and
11 Presidential appointees, including chiefs of mis-
12 sion, in missions abroad who work on political,
13 economic, public diplomacy, security, or devel-
14 opment issues, a dedicated module of instruc-
15 tion on support for human rights defenders, in-
16 cluding human rights defenders who are infor-
17 mally organized outside of registered civil soci-
18 ety organizations; and”.

19 **SEC. 12. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 (a) STRATEGY AND TRAINING.—There is authorized
21 to be appropriated \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years
22 2024 through 2028 to carry out—

23 (1) the Strategy described in section 5;

24 (2) reporting requirements described in sub-
25 sections (C) and (D) of section 116(f)(1) of the For-

1 eign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.
2 2151n(f)(1)), as added by section 14; and

3 (3) the training required by section
4 708(a)(1)(E) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22
5 U.S.C. 4028(a)(1)), as added by section 14.

6 (b) HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICERS.—There is authorized
7 to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years
8 2024 to 2028 to carry out section 7.

9 (c) SUPPORT OF DEMOCRACY ADVOCATES AT-
10 RISK.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Na-
11 tional Endowment for Democracy \$5,000,000 for each of
12 fiscal years 2024 through 2028 for the Reagan-Fascell
13 Democracy Fellows Program for additional fellowships for
14 democracy advocates at risk.

○