

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 9707

To establish a reporting requirement for cases of transnational repression against United States persons, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OMAR, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. VALADAO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To establish a reporting requirement for cases of transnational repression against United States persons, 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 “Transnational Repres-  
5 sion Reporting Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) There have been allegations of transnational  
2           repression against United States persons or persons  
3           in the United States, including targeting political  
4           and human rights activists, journalists, and mem-  
5           bers of religious and ethnic minority groups.

6           (2) A large number of diaspora communities  
7           have experienced a rise of incidents of intimidation,  
8           harassment, or, in some cases, violence in the United  
9           States. However, transnational repression against  
10          United States persons or persons in the United  
11          States appear to be on the rise particularly from  
12          India, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and China.

13          (3) Preliminary investigations suggest that indi-  
14          viduals associated with the Government of India may  
15          have played a role in orchestrating the 2023 at-  
16          tempted assassination of Gurpatwant Singh Pannun,  
17          a prominent Sikh activist living in New York. The  
18          attempted assassination of Pannun appears to have  
19          been an effort to silence his criticism of the Indian  
20          Government for his advocacy for the rights of Sikhs  
21          and the creation of an independent Sikh state,  
22          known as Khalistan, out of the Province of Punjab  
23          in India, for which the Government of India has de-  
24          clared Pannun a terrorist on the basis of sedition  
25          and secessionism. The attempted assassination of

1 Pannun followed shortly after the successful assas-  
2 sination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June 2023 in  
3 Canada, for which Prime Minister Justin Trudeau  
4 stated that there was credible allegations of Indian  
5 involvement.

6 (4) Saudi Arabia has engaged in a campaign of  
7 targeting critics, former members of the royal fam-  
8 ily, women fleeing gender-based discrimination, and  
9 journalists, as well as their families. Saudi Arabia  
10 sentenced Prince Abdullah bin Faisal al Saud to 30  
11 years in prison after he discussed the imprisonment  
12 of a royal cousin and fellow prince. Prince Abdullah  
13 made the call from the United States while attend-  
14 ing Northeastern University as a graduate student.  
15 United States citizens are no longer immune to  
16 these repressive measures. Saad al Madi, a United  
17 States citizen, was imprisoned for tweets he posted  
18 that were critical of the regime. Like Prince  
19 Abdullah, Saad al Madi made his comments in the  
20 United States but was arrested in Saudi Arabia  
21 while on a visit. While Saad Al Madi initially re-  
22 ceived a virtual life sentence, he has been released  
23 but remains in Saudi Arabia under a travel ban.  
24 Saudi Arabia was also responsible for the brutal  
25 murder of United States-based Washington Post col-

1 umnist Jamal Khashoggi in a Saudi consulate in  
2 Istanbul, Turkey in 2018.

3 (5) Iran has targeted dissidents and critics in  
4 the United States for decades. Iran attempted to as-  
5 sassinate Masih Alinejad, an Iranian journalist and  
6 rights activist, in 2022. There are also credible alle-  
7 gations that Iran was involved in an assassination  
8 plot against an Iranian-American writer in New  
9 York and an Iranian defector living in Maryland,  
10 both in the early 2020s. In 1980, Iran was involved  
11 in the successful assassination of Ali Akbar  
12 Tabatabai, an Iranian dissident living in Bethesda,  
13 Maryland. His killer, Dawud Salahuddin, fled to  
14 Iran after the assassination, publicly confessing to  
15 the murder and claiming he received \$5,000 from  
16 the Iranian Government carry it out. Iran has also  
17 engaged in assassination attempts against officials  
18 of the United States Government who were critical  
19 of the Iranian regime. A member of Iran's Islamic  
20 Revolutionary Guard Corps allegedly hired an assas-  
21 sin in 2021 to murder former national security ad-  
22 viser John Bolton. And, most recently, Iran was im-  
23 plicated in a plot to assassinate former President  
24 Donald Trump in 2024. Iran was also implicated in

1 a plot to murder the Saudi ambassador to the  
2 United States in 2012.

3 (6) China has attempted to silence its critics by  
4 employing intimidation and harassment, particularly  
5 against members of the Chinese diaspora living in  
6 the United States but having relatives, citizenship,  
7 or financial ties to mainland China or Hong Kong.  
8 In November 2023, supporters of the Chinese Com-  
9 munist Party, with the aid of Chinese diplomats, at-  
10 tacked a group of protesters in San Francisco. The  
11 victims of the attack, most of whom had roots in  
12 China, East Turkestan, Hong Kong, or Tibet, had  
13 gathered to protest President Xi Jinping's visit to  
14 the city. There is also credible evidence that China  
15 is repressing the freedoms of members of the Falun  
16 Gong, as well as hindering the business operations  
17 of the Shen Yun Performing Arts company. There is  
18 further evidence that China continues to repress  
19 members of Uyghur ethnic communities who are liv-  
20 ing abroad by threatening their relatives with deten-  
21 tion. China has also conducted surveillance against  
22 Tibetan activists, using naturalized U.S. citizens of  
23 Chinese descent or Chinese agents to infiltrate and  
24 spy on members of pro-democracy groups in New  
25 York and other States.

1           (7) Notwithstanding the importance of a bilat-  
2           eral relationship to the common interests of a stable  
3           and prosperous region, any such relationship should  
4           be based on an alignment of the shared values held  
5           in democratic institutions, fundamental human  
6           rights, and respect for international laws and norms.

7           (8) Acts of transnational repression violate the  
8           sovereignty of nations, undermining the values that  
9           are foundational in relationships within the inter-  
10          national community of nations.

11          (9) Transnational repression results in victims  
12          through the silencing of critics and stifling speech,  
13          making it more difficult for individuals to express  
14          freedoms, and giving pause to the consideration of  
15          the potential costs for doing so.

16          (10) Transnational repression puts in jeopardy  
17          a country's standing and reputation within the inter-  
18          national community as well as the bilateral relation-  
19          ship with the United States, requiring actions by the  
20          government committing such offenses that are com-  
21          mensurate with the seriousness of the violation.

22 **SEC. 3. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

23          (a) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after  
24          the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,  
25          the Attorney General, in coordination with the heads of

1 other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit a report to  
2 the appropriate congressional committees on cases of  
3 transnational repression. The report shall include, for the  
4 covered period, the following:

5           (1) A detailed description of each such case re-  
6           ported to the Department of Justice or another rel-  
7           evant Federal agency, including the nature of the  
8           transnational repression, the individuals involved,  
9           and the location of each incident of transnational re-  
10          pression associated with the case.

11          (2) An assessment of the case, using all avail-  
12          able law enforcement and intelligence resources, in-  
13          cluding an evaluation of the foreign government's in-  
14          volvement in the case.

15          (3) The actions taken by the United States  
16          Government in response to each case, including—

17                (A) diplomatic measures;

18                (B) law enforcement actions and criminal  
19                prosecutions;

20                (C) civil and administrative actions, such  
21                as targeted sanctions, fines and penalties, and  
22                entry ineligibility of foreign persons;

23                (D) protective measures provided to vic-  
24                tims; and

1 (E) collaboration of the United States Gov-  
2 ernment with other countries that have experi-  
3 enced similar cases of transnational repression.

4 (4) The actions taken by the foreign govern-  
5 ment to address the allegations of transnational re-  
6 pression, including any findings of culpability and  
7 the holding of individuals accountable.

8 (5) An assessment of the trends and patterns of  
9 transnational repression in each foreign country in  
10 which transnational repression has originated.

11 (b) CASES.—In preparing the first report under sub-  
12 section (a), the Attorney General shall include cases of al-  
13 leged transnational repression originating from the fol-  
14 lowing countries:

15 (1) India, including the alleged assassination  
16 attempt of Gurpatwant Pannun in 2023, and other  
17 acts of harassment and intimidation against the  
18 Sikh community.

19 (2) Saudi Arabia, including the acts of harass-  
20 ment, intimidation, and imprisonment against critics  
21 of the government, such as the acts committed  
22 against Prince Abdullah bin Faisal al Saud and  
23 Saad Almadi.



1           (3) Iran, including the threat of kidnapping and  
2           the threat of assassination of journalists and rights  
3           activists, such as Masih Alinejad, in 2022.

4           (4) China, including the harassment and intimi-  
5           dation of human rights and pro-democracy activists,  
6           particularly former residents of the Hong Kong Spe-  
7           cial Administrative Region, Uyghur ethnic commu-  
8           nities, members of the Falun Gong and the Shen  
9           Yun Performing Arts company, and Tibetan activ-  
10          ists.

11          (c) CLASSIFICATION.—Each report under subsection  
12 (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form and made avail-  
13 able to the public. A classified annex shall be made avail-  
14 able to the Members of the appropriate congressional com-  
15 mittees, as needed, and maintained by the Permanent Se-  
16 lect Committee on Intelligence of the House of Represent-  
17 atives and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the  
18 Senate.

19          (d) PRIVACY PROTECTION.—In preparing the report  
20 under subsection (a), the Attorney General shall comply  
21 with all applicable privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties  
22 protections when identifying individuals who have been the  
23 target of transnational repression.

24          (e) COVERED PERIOD.—In this section, the term  
25 “covered period” means—

1 (1) for the first report under subsection (a), the  
2 previous 10-year period; and

3 (2) for each subsequent report under subsection  
4 (a), the previous one-year period.

5 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

6 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums  
7 as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this  
8 Act.

9 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

10 In this Act:

11 (1) **TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION.**—The term  
12 “transnational repression” means any activity of a  
13 foreign government, or an agent of a foreign govern-  
14 ment or a proxy thereof, that—

15 (A)(i) is any effort to harass, intimidate,  
16 or digitally or physically threaten a person to  
17 either take action or to refrain from taking ac-  
18 tion that would be in the interest of the foreign  
19 government; or

20 (ii) is an attempt to prevent the person  
21 from exercising any right that is protected  
22 under the First Amendment to the Constitution  
23 of the United States, or to retaliate against a  
24 person for having exercised such a right; and

1 (B) targets a United States person or a  
2 person in the United States, including through  
3 the harassment or intimidation of immediate  
4 family members of the person.

5 (2) RELEVANT FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The term  
6 “relevant Federal agencies” means the Department  
7 of State, the Department of Homeland Security, the  
8 Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Office of the  
9 Director of National Intelligence, and any other  
10 agency determined appropriate by the Attorney Gen-  
11 eral.

12 (3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
13 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
14 mittees” means the Committee on the Judiciary of  
15 the House or Representatives, the Committee on  
16 Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, the  
17 Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the  
18 House of Representatives, the Committee on Appro-  
19 priations of the House of Representatives, the Com-  
20 mittee on the Judiciary of the Senate, the Com-  
21 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Se-  
22 lect Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, and  
23 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

24 (4) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term  
25 “United States person” means a citizen of the

1 United States or an alien lawfully admitted for per-  
2 manent residence (as defined in section 101(a)(20)  
3 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
4 1101(a)(20))), and includes minors.

5 **SEC. 6. SUNSET.**

6 This Act shall sunset on the earlier of December 31,  
7 2030, or the date that is 6 years after the date of enact-  
8 ment of this Act.

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