

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5095

To counter efforts to recognize or normalize relations with any Government of Syria that is led by Bashar al-Assad, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

Mr. CARDIN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To counter efforts to recognize or normalize relations with any Government of Syria that is led by Bashar al-Assad, 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 TITLES; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLES.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Supporting Syrian Civilians Act” or the “Caesar Act
6 2.0”.

7 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
8 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short titles; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Modifications to the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act.

Sec. 3. Statement of policy regarding the prohibition of recognition of the Assad regime.

Sec. 4. Interagency strategy to counter normalization with Assad regime.

Sec. 5. Reports on manipulation of United Nations by the Assad regime in Syria.

Sec. 6. Briefing before force posture change.

Sec. 7. Economic support funds for Syria.

Sec. 8. Countering Captagon trafficking.

Sec. 9. Briefing on steps to free Austin Tice and repatriate American remains from Syria.

1 **SEC. 2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE CAESAR SYRIA CIVILIAN**
 2 **PROTECTION ACT.**

3 (a) CAESAR SYRIA CIVILIAN PROTECTION ACT.—

4 Section 7412(a) of the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection
 5 Act of 2019 (title LXXIV of the National Defense Author-
 6 ization Act for Fiscal Year 2020; 22 U.S.C. 8791 note)
 7 is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “the President
 9 shall impose” and all that follows and inserting the
 10 following: “the President—

11 “(A) shall impose the sanctions described
 12 in subsection (b) with respect to a foreign per-
 13 son that the President determines—

14 “(i) knowingly engages, on or after
 15 such date of enactment, in an activity de-
 16 scribed in paragraph (2); or

17 “(ii) is owned or controlled by a for-
 18 eign person described in clause (i); and

19 “(B) may impose the sanctions described
 20 in subsection (b) with respect to a foreign per-

1 son that the Secretary of State determines
2 knowingly provides, on or after such date of en-
3 actment, significant financial, material, or tech-
4 nological support to a foreign person engaging
5 in an activity described in any of subparagraphs
6 (B) through (H) of paragraph (2).”;

7 (2) in paragraph (2)—

8 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

9 (i) by amending clause (i) to read as
10 follows:

11 “(i) the Government of Syria (includ-
12 ing any entity owned or controlled by the
13 Government of Syria), a senior political
14 figure of the Government of Syria, a mem-
15 ber of the People’s Assembly of Syria, or
16 a senior foreign political figure (as defined
17 in section 101.605 of title 31, Code of
18 Federal Regulations) of the Arab Socialist
19 Ba’ath Party of Syria, including any such
20 senior foreign political figure who is a
21 member of the Central Command, Central
22 Committee, or Auditing and Inspection
23 Committee of such Party;”;

24 (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “; or”
25 and inserting a semicolon;

1 (iii) in clause (iii), by striking the
2 semicolon at the end and inserting “; or”;
3 and

4 (iv) by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(iv) Syria Arab Airlines, Cham
7 Wings, or any foreign person owned or
8 controlled by Syria Arab Airlines or Cham
9 Wings;”;

10 (B) by amending subparagraph (C) to read
11 as follows:

12 “(C) knowingly sells or provides aircraft or
13 spare aircraft parts—

14 “(i) to the Government of Syria; or

15 “(ii) on behalf of the Government of
16 Syria to any foreign person operating in an
17 area directly or indirectly controlled by the
18 Government of Syria or foreign forces
19 under the direction or control of the Gov-
20 ernment of Syria;”;

21 (C) in subparagraph (D), by striking “or”
22 at the end;

23 (D) in subparagraph (E), by striking the
24 period at the end and inserting a semicolon;
25 and

1 (E) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(F) purposefully engages in or directs—

3 “(i) the significant diversion of valu-
4 able goods (including agricultural commod-
5 ities, food, medicine, and medical devices)
6 or any international humanitarian assist-
7 ance intended for the people of Syria; or

8 “(ii) the dealing in the significant
9 misappropriation of proceeds from the sale
10 or resale of such significant diverted goods
11 or international humanitarian assistance,
12 as the case may be;

13 “(G) knowingly engages in, or attempts to
14 engage in, the significant seizure, confiscation,
15 theft, or expropriation for personal gain or po-
16 litical purposes of significant property, includ-
17 ing real property, in Syria or owned by a citizen
18 of Syria; or

19 “(H) knowingly and directly engages in, or
20 attempts to engage in, a transaction or trans-
21 actions for or with seized, confiscated, stolen, or
22 expropriated property described in subpara-
23 graph (G).”.

24 (b) REPORT ON CAESAR SYRIA CIVILIAN PROTEC-
25 TION ACT OF 2019.—

1 (1) DEFINED TERM.—In this subsection, the
2 term “appropriate congressional committees”
3 means—

4 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
5 the Senate;

6 (B) the Committee on Banking, Housing,
7 and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

8 (C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
9 the House of Representatives; and

10 (D) the Committee on Financial Services
11 of the House of Representatives.

12 (2) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
13 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and an-
14 nually thereafter for the following 3 years, the Sec-
15 retary of the Treasury, with the concurrence of the
16 Secretary of State, shall submit a report to the ap-
17 propriate congressional committees describing the
18 implementation of sanctions under the Caesar Syria
19 Civilian Protection Act of 2019, as amended by this
20 Act.

21 (3) ELEMENTS.—Each report submitted pursu-
22 ant to paragraph (2) shall describe—

23 (A) all individuals or entities sanctioned
24 under the authorities granted by the Caesar
25 Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019;

1 (B) all individuals and entities determined
2 to be eligible for sanction under the authorities
3 granted by the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection
4 Act of 2019 who have not yet been sanctioned
5 under such authorities;

6 (C) all individuals and entities currently
7 under consideration for sanction under the au-
8 thorities granted by the Caesar Syria Civilian
9 Protection Act of 2019; and

10 (D) the steps taken to explain to financial
11 institutions sanctions liability under the au-
12 thorities granted by the Caesar Syria Civilian
13 Protection Act of 2019 and the date such steps
14 were taken.

15 (4) FORM.—Each report required under para-
16 graph (2) shall be submitted in an unclassified form,
17 but may contain a classified annex that is submitted
18 separately from the unclassified report.

19 (c) EXCEPTIONS.—Section 7432 of the Caesar Syria
20 Civilian Protection Act of 2019 (22 U.S.C. 8791 note) is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 **“SEC. 7432. EXCEPTIONS.**

23 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 “(1) AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY.—The term
25 ‘agricultural commodity’ has the meaning given such

1 term in section 102 of the Agricultural Trade Act of
2 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5602).

3 “(2) GOOD.—The term ‘good’ means any arti-
4 cle, natural or manmade substance, material, supply,
5 or manufactured product, including inspection and
6 test equipment, and excluding technical data.

7 “(3) MEDICAL DEVICE.—The term ‘medical de-
8 vice’ has the meaning given the term ‘device’ in sec-
9 tion 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic
10 Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

11 “(4) MEDICINE.—The term ‘medicine’ has the
12 meaning given the term ‘drug’ in section 201 of the
13 Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C.
14 321).

15 “(b) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NA-
16 TIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT AND LAW ENFORCE-
17 MENT ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this Act shall not
18 apply with respect to the admission of an alien to the
19 United States if admitting or paroling such alien into the
20 United States is necessary—

21 “(1) to permit the United States to comply with
22 the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the
23 United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26,
24 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947,
25 between the United Nations and the United States,

1 or other applicable international obligations of the
2 United States; or

3 “(2) to carry out or assist authorized law en-
4 forcement activity in the United States.

5 “(c) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTELLIGENCE
6 ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under this Act shall not apply to
7 any activity subject to the reporting requirements under
8 title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C.
9 3091 et seq.) or any authorized intelligence activities of
10 the United States.

11 “(d) HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Sanctions under
12 this Act shall not apply to—

13 “(1) the conduct or facilitation of a transaction
14 for the provision of agricultural commodities, food,
15 medicine, medical devices, or humanitarian assist-
16 ance, or for other humanitarian purposes; or

17 “(2) transactions that are necessary for, or re-
18 lated to, the activities described in paragraph (1).”.

19 (d) EXTENSION OF SUNSET.—Section 7438 of the
20 Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 is amended
21 by striking “the date that is 5 years after the date of the
22 enactment of this Act” and inserting “December 31,
23 2028”.

24 (e) DETERMINATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE SYRIA
25 TRUST FOR DEVELOPMENT.—

1 (1) DEFINED TERM.—In this subsection, the
2 term “appropriate congressional committees”
3 means—

4 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
5 the Senate;

6 (B) the Committee on Banking, Housing,
7 and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

8 (C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
9 the House of Representatives; and

10 (D) the Committee on Financial Services
11 of the House of Representatives.

12 (2) DETERMINATIONS.—Not later than 120
13 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
14 President shall—

15 (A) determine whether the nonprofit orga-
16 nization chaired by Asma Al-Assad, the First
17 Lady of Syria, known as the “Syria Trust for
18 Development” meets the criteria for the imposi-
19 tion of sanctions—

20 (i) under section 7412(a) of the Cae-
21 sar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019,
22 as amended by subsection (a);

23 (ii) under Executive Order 13894 (84
24 Fed. Reg. 55851; relating to blocking
25 property and suspending entry of certain

1 persons contributing to the situation in
2 Syria); or

3 (iii) by nature of being owned or con-
4 trolled by a person designated under any
5 executive order or regulation administered
6 by the Office of Foreign Assets Control;
7 and

8 (B) submit to the appropriate congres-
9 sional committees each such determination, in-
10 cluding a justification for the determination.

11 (3) FORM.—Each determination required under
12 paragraph (2)(B) shall be submitted in unclassified
13 form, but the justification specified in such para-
14 graph may be included in a classified annex. The un-
15 classified determination shall be made available on a
16 publicly available website of the Federal Govern-
17 ment.

18 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY REGARDING THE PROHIBI-**
19 **TION OF RECOGNITION OF THE ASSAD RE-**
20 **GIME.**

21 It is the policy of the United States—

22 (1) to not recognize or normalize relations with
23 any Government of Syria that is led by Bashar al-
24 Assad due to the Assad regime's ongoing crimes
25 against the Syrian people, including failure to meet

1 the criteria outlined in section 7431(a) of the Caesar
2 Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 (22 U.S.C.
3 8791 note);

4 (2) to actively oppose recognition or normaliza-
5 tion of relations by other governments with any Gov-
6 ernment of Syria that is led by Bashar Al-Assad, in-
7 cluding by fully implementing the mandatory pri-
8 mary and secondary sanctions in the Caesar Syria
9 Civilian Protection Act of 2019 and Executive Order
10 13894 (84 Fed. Reg. 55851; relating to blocking
11 property and suspending entry of certain persons
12 contributing to the situation in Syria);

13 (3) to continue to actively advance the national
14 interests of the United States in Syria, including—

15 (A) counterterrorism and counternarcotic
16 operations;

17 (B) the provision of humanitarian assist-
18 ance to the Syrian people, including earth-
19 quake-related early recovery; and

20 (C) significant diplomatic efforts towards
21 the advancement of a political solution to the
22 Syrian conflict in adherence with United Na-
23 tions Security Council Resolution 2254 (2015);
24 and

25 (4) to take all necessary steps to secure—

1 (A) the release of Austin Tice and other
2 hostages and unjustly detained United States
3 nationals within Syria; and

4 (B) the repatriation of the remains of
5 United States nationals killed by the Assad re-
6 gime or by the Islamic State in Syria, including
7 Majd Kamalmaz, Kayla Mueller, James Foley,
8 Peter Kassig, and Steven Sotloff.

9 **SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY STRATEGY TO COUNTER NORMAL-**
10 **IZATION WITH ASSAD REGIME.**

11 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
13 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
14 mittees” means—

15 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
16 the Senate;

17 (B) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
18 Senate;

19 (C) the Committee on Banking, Housing,
20 and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

21 (D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
22 the House of Representatives;

23 (E) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
24 House of Representatives; and

1 (F) the Committee on Financial Services
2 of the House of Representatives.

3 (2) COVERED TRANSACTION.—The term “cov-
4 ered transaction” means a transaction, including an
5 investment, grant, contract, or donation (including a
6 loan or other extension of credit) by a foreign person
7 that is a representative, citizen, or entity incor-
8 porated exclusively under the laws of the Republic of
9 Türkiye, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Jordan,
10 Iraq, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, the Kingdom of
11 Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Libya, or
12 Lebanon to a recipient located in any area of Syria
13 controlled by the Assad regime.

14 (b) REPORT REQUIRED.—

15 (1) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 180 days
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and an-
17 nually thereafter for a period not to exceed 3 years,
18 the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Sec-
19 retary of the Treasury and the heads of other appro-
20 priate Federal departments and agencies, shall sub-
21 mit a report to the appropriate congressional com-
22 mittees that describes—

23 (A) the steps taken or planned to be taken
24 by foreign governments to normalize or upgrade
25 political, diplomatic, or economic ties with the

1 regime led by Bashar al-Assad in Syria (re-
2 ferred to in this Act as the “Assad regime”);
3 and

4 (B) the actions taken by the United States
5 Government to counter such steps.

6 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report submitted pursu-
7 ant to paragraph (1) shall include—

8 (A) a description of—

9 (i) violations of international law and
10 human rights abuses committed by Bashar
11 al-Assad, the Government of the Russian
12 Federation, or the Government of Iran;
13 and

14 (ii) progress made towards achieving
15 justice for the Syrian people and account-
16 ability for the violators;

17 (B) a list, including the identification of—

18 (i) any single covered transaction ex-
19 ceeding \$2,500,000; and

20 (ii) any combination of covered trans-
21 actions by the same source within a 12-
22 month period that exceed \$2,500,000, in
23 the aggregate;

24 (C) for each identified single transaction or
25 aggregate transactions, as the case may be, in-

1 cluded in the list described in subparagraph
2 (B), a determination of whether such trans-
3 action subjects any of the parties to the trans-
4 action to sanctions under the Caesar Syria Ci-
5 vilian Protection Act of 2019, as amended by
6 section 2;

7 (D) a description of the steps the United
8 States is taking to actively deter recognition or
9 normalization of relations by other governments
10 with the Assad regime, including specific diplo-
11 matic engagements and the use of economic
12 sanctions authorized by Federal statutes or im-
13 plemented through Executive Orders, includ-
14 ing—

15 (i) the Caesar Syria Civilian Protec-
16 tion Act of 2019 (22 U.S.C. 8791 note);

17 (ii) the Syria Accountability and Leb-
18 anese Sovereignty Restoration Act (22
19 U.S.C. 2151 note);

20 (iii) the Comprehensive Iran Sanc-
21 tions, Accountability, and Divestment Act
22 of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8501 et seq.);

23 (iv) Executive Order 13894 (84 Fed.
24 Reg. 55851; relating to blocking property

1 and suspending entry of certain persons
2 contributing to the situation in Syria);

3 (v) the Global Magnitsky Human
4 Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C.
5 10101 et seq.);

6 (vi) the Countering American Adver-
7 saries through Sanctions Act (22 U.S.C.
8 9401 et seq.); and

9 (vii) the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin
10 Designation Act (title VIII of Public Law
11 106–120; 21 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.); and

12 (E) an assessment of how recognition of,
13 or normalization of relations with, the Assad re-
14 gime by other governments impacts—

15 (i) the national security of the United
16 States;

17 (ii) the material benefits of such rec-
18 ognition or normalization to the Assad re-
19 gime;

20 (iii) the normalizing government pros-
21 pects for the implementation of United Na-
22 tions Security Council Resolution 2254;

23 (iv) prospects for justice and account-
24 ability for war crimes in Syria; and

1 (v) the benefits derived by the Govern-
2 ment of the Russian Federation or the
3 Government of Iran.

4 (c) TEMPORAL SCOPE.—The initial report required
5 under subsection (b) shall address the period beginning
6 on January 1, 2022, and ending on the date of the enact-
7 ment of this Act. Each subsequent report shall address
8 the 1-year period immediately following the last day cov-
9 ered by the most recently submitted report.

10 (d) FORM.—Each report required under subsection
11 (b) shall be submitted in an unclassified form, but may
12 contain a classified annex.

13 **SEC. 5. REPORTS ON MANIPULATION OF UNITED NATIONS**
14 **BY THE ASSAD REGIME IN SYRIA.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
16 date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter
17 for a period not to exceed 5 years, the Secretary of State
18 shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Rela-
19 tions of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs
20 of the House of Representatives that describes the manip-
21 ulation of the United Nations by the Assad regime, includ-
22 ing—

23 (1) a description of conditions, both explicit and
24 implicit, set by the Assad regime with respect to
25 United Nations operations in Syria, including with

1 respect to implementing partners, hiring practices,
2 allocation of grants and contracts, and procurement
3 of goods and services;

4 (2) the identification of officials or employees of
5 the United Nations (including funds, programs, and
6 specialized agencies of the United Nations) with ties
7 to the Assad regime, or persons designated for sanc-
8 tions by United Nations donor countries;

9 (3) an account of access restrictions imposed by
10 the Assad regime and the overall impact of such re-
11 strictions on the ability of the United Nations to eq-
12 uitably deliver international assistance to target
13 beneficiaries in areas outside the control of the
14 Assad regime;

15 (4) a description of ways in which United Na-
16 tions aid directly benefits the Assad regime and its
17 associates;

18 (5) a description of the due diligence mecha-
19 nisms and vetting procedures in place to ensure enti-
20 ties contracted by the United Nations to ensure
21 goods, supplies, or services provided to Syria do not
22 have links to the Assad regime, known human rights
23 abusers, or persons designated for sanctions by
24 United Nations donor countries;

1 (6) the identification of entities affiliated with
2 the Assad regime (including the Syria Trust for De-
3 velopment and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent), for-
4 eign government ministries, and private corporations
5 owned or controlled by the Assad regime, which have
6 received United Nations funding, contracts, or
7 grants or have otherwise entered into a formalized
8 partnership with the United Nations;

9 (7) an assessment of how the Assad regime sets
10 arbitrary or punitive exchange rates to extract fund-
11 ing from the United Nations, and the total amount
12 extracted by such means; and

13 (8) a strategy for—

14 (A) reducing the ability of the Assad re-
15 gime to manipulate or otherwise influence the
16 United Nations and other aid operations in
17 Syria; and

18 (B) ensuring that United States and inter-
19 national aid is delivered in a neutral and impar-
20 tial manner consistent with basic humanitarian
21 principles.

22 (b) FORM.—The report required under subsection (a)
23 shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain
24 a classified annex.

1 **SEC. 6. BRIEFING BEFORE FORCE POSTURE CHANGE.**

2 Not later than 15 days before any decision to with-
3 draw United States forces from any part of Syria where
4 such forces are being deployed, the Secretary of Defense
5 and the Secretary of State shall jointly brief the Com-
6 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee
7 on Armed Services of the Senate, the Committee on For-
8 eign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the
9 Committee on Armed Services of the House of Represent-
10 atives on the likely impacts of such withdrawal.

11 **SEC. 7. ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUNDS FOR SYRIA.**

12 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
13 gress that—

14 (1) the humanitarian situation in areas of
15 northwest Syria that are not controlled by the Assad
16 regime remains dire, which is due in large part to
17 ongoing attacks, diversion of cross-line assistance,
18 and corruption by the Assad regime;

19 (2) Syrian refugees and their host commu-
20 nities—

21 (A) are under significant strain due to the
22 prolonged conflict in Syria; and

23 (B) require significant assistance from the
24 international community;

25 (3) it remains unsafe for Syrian refugees to re-
26 turn to Syria absent a formal cessation of hostilities

1 and significant implementation of the principles laid
2 out in United Nations Security Council Resolution
3 2254 (2015);

4 (4) the forced return of Syrian refugees to
5 Syria absent their consent or the aforementioned
6 conditions violates the principle of non-refoulement;
7 and

8 (5) host countries must not forcibly return refu-
9 gees to Syria without their consent absent a formal
10 cessation of hostilities and significant implementa-
11 tion of the principles laid out in United Nations Se-
12 curity Council Resolution 2254 (2015).

13 (b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the
14 United States—

15 (1) to provide humanitarian funding to north-
16 west Syria outside of mechanisms controlled by the
17 Assad regime;

18 (2) to maintain basic services for communities
19 in northwest Syria outside of Assad regime control;

20 (3) to oppose the refoulement or otherwise fore-
21 cible return of Syrian refugees and provide significant
22 assistance to Syrian refugees and their host commu-
23 nities; and

24 (4) to work with partners and allies to support
25 the efforts described in paragraph (1) through (3).

1 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR HU-
2 MANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR NORTHWEST SYRIA.—
3 There is authorized to be appropriated, in addition to
4 amounts already appropriated for such purpose,
5 \$10,000,000 in Economic Support Funds for the Syria
6 Civil Defense (commonly known as the “White Helmets”).

7 (d) REPORT AND STRATEGY ON STABILIZATION
8 FUNDING FOR NORTHWEST SYRIA.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
10 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
11 of State, in coordination with the Administrator of
12 the United States Agency for International Develop-
13 ment, shall submit a report to the Committee on
14 Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee
15 on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives
16 that assesses—

17 (A) the feasibility of providing stabilization
18 funding to areas of northwest Syria that are
19 not under the control the Assad regime; and

20 (B) the risks that such funds will be di-
21 verted and steps to counter such risks.

22 (2) FORM.—The report required under para-
23 graph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form,
24 but may contain a classified annex.

25 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

1 (1) STABILIZATION ASSISTANCE FOR NORTH-
2 WEST SYRIA.—

3 (A) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to
4 be appropriated \$20,000,000 in Economic Sup-
5 port Funds for stabilization funding in areas of
6 northwest Syria that are not under the control
7 of the Assad Regime.

8 (B) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—None of the
9 funds appropriated pursuant to subparagraph
10 (A) may be expended until a senior official of
11 the Department of State provides a briefing re-
12 garding such expenditure to—

13 (i) the Committee on Foreign Rela-
14 tions of the Senate;

15 (ii) the Committee on Appropriations
16 of the Senate;

17 (iii) the Committee on Foreign Affairs
18 of the House of Representatives; and

19 (iv) the Committee on Appropriations
20 of the House of Representatives.

21 (2) FUNDS FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES AND HOST
22 COMMUNITIES.—There is authorized to be appro-
23 priated \$50,000,000 in Economic Support Funds to
24 support Syrian refugees and host communities in the
25 Middle East and North Africa.

1 **SEC. 8. COUNTERING CAPTAGON TRAFFICKING.**

2 (a) **REPORT ON STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION.**—

3 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days
4 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and an-
5 nually thereafter for the following 3 years, the Sec-
6 retary of State shall submit a report to the Com-
7 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the
8 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
9 resentatives describing the implementation of the
10 strategy submitted by the Secretary of State pursu-
11 ant to section 1238(c) of the James M. Inhofe Na-
12 tional Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year
13 2023 (Public Law 117–263).

14 (2) **ELEMENTS.**—Each report required under
15 paragraph (1) shall include—

16 (A) the amount of funds obligated for the
17 previous fiscal year in support of the strategy
18 referred to in such paragraph; and

19 (B) a description of how such funds have
20 supported each of the elements described in
21 such strategy.

22 (3) **FORM.**—Each report required under para-
23 graph (1) shall be submitted in an unclassified form,
24 but may contain a classified annex that is trans-
25 mitted separately from the unclassified report.

1 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated, in addition to any funds
3 already appropriated for such purpose, \$10,000,000 from
4 the International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement
5 (INCLE) account to counter the production and traf-
6 ficking of Captagon in the Middle East and North Africa,
7 especially such trafficking carried out by the Assad Re-
8 gime and Hezbollah.

9 **SEC. 9. BRIEFING ON STEPS TO FREE AUSTIN TICE AND RE-**
10 **PATRIATE AMERICAN REMAINS FROM SYRIA.**

11 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

12 (1) Austin Tice, an American journalist, was
13 kidnaped on August 14, 2012.

14 (2) Majd Kamalmaz, an American
15 psychotherapist, was detained by the Assad regime
16 in February 2017, and subsequently murdered in
17 captivity by the Assad regime.

18 (3) Kayla Mueller and Peter Kassig, 2 Amer-
19 ican aid workers, and James Foley and Steven
20 Sotloff, 2 American journalists, were all United
21 States citizens who were murdered in Syria while
22 being held in captivity by the Islamic State.

23 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the Sense of Con-
24 gress that the United States Government should take all
25 necessary steps—

1 (1) to secure the release of Austin Tice and
2 other Americans unjustly detained in Syria; and

3 (2) to secure the return of the remains of Majd
4 Kamalmaz, Kayla Mueller, James Foley, Peter
5 Kassig, and Steven Sotloff.

6 (c) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually
8 thereafter for the following 5 years, the President shall
9 provide a briefing to the Committee on Foreign Relations
10 of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
11 the House of Representatives regarding—

12 (1) efforts by the United States Government—

13 (A) to secure the release of Austin Tice
14 and other unjustly detained Americans in Syria;
15 and

16 (B) to secure the return of the remains of
17 Majd Kamalmaz, Kayla Mueller, James Foley,
18 Peter Kassig, Steven Sotloff, and other United
19 States nationals killed in captivity in Syria; and

20 (2) the steps the United States Government is
21 taking to keep the families of such persons informed
22 of its efforts to secure the release of such persons
23 or the return of their remains.

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