

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To require the imposition of sanctions on the Popular Resistance Committees and other associated entities, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. RICKETTS (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To require the imposition of sanctions on the Popular Resistance Committees and other associated entities, 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 “Accountability for Ter-
5 rorist Perpetrators of October 7th Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. IMPOSITION OF TERRORISM SANCTIONS WITH RE-**
7 **SPECT TO THE POPULAR RESISTANCE COM-**
8 **MITTEES.**

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

1 (1) Since its founding in 2000, during the sec-
2 ond intifada, the Popular Resistance Committees
3 has regularly carried out terror attacks against
4 Israelis, Americans, and Palestinians.

5 (2) The ranks of the Popular Resistance Com-
6 mittees include former operatives from Hamas, Pal-
7 estinian Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front for
8 the Liberation of Palestine, all of which are des-
9 ignated by the United States as foreign terrorist or-
10 ganizations.

11 (3) The Popular Resistance Committees carried
12 out an attack in 2003 on a United States diplomatic
13 convoy that injured a diplomat and killed 3 security
14 guards from the United States. The Popular Resist-
15 ance Committees has also carried out the 2004 mur-
16 der of a pregnant Israeli woman and her 4 daugh-
17 ters, aged 11, 9, 7 and 2, and the executions of Pal-
18 estiniens, including the former Palestinian Authority
19 Gaza security chief.

20 (4) The Popular Resistance Committees has
21 been the third-largest terror group in the Gaza strip,
22 after Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, since as
23 early as 2011.

24 (5) On October 7, 2023, Hamas, Palestinian Is-
25 lamic Jihad, and the Popular Resistance Committees

1 terrorists launched a massive, unprovoked war on
2 Israel by air, land, and sea, including firing thou-
3 sands of rockets, resulting in the deaths of 1,200 in-
4 nocent Israelis, Americans, and others, the abduc-
5 tion of 250 hostages, and widespread torture and
6 sexual violence.

7 (6) On October 7, 2023, the Popular Resistance
8 Committees issued a statement claiming responsi-
9 bility for participating in the terrorist attack against
10 Israel alongside Hamas and their affiliates, includ-
11 ing the kidnaping of soldiers of the Israel Defense
12 Forces, and posted photos of items taken from sol-
13 diers killed and captured by the group as evidence.

14 (7) On October 8, 2023, the Popular Resistance
15 Committees issued a statement claiming responsi-
16 bility for dispatching kamikaze drones during the at-
17 tack on Israel.

18 (b) IN GENERAL.—On and after the date that is 90
19 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Presi-
20 dent shall impose the sanctions described under subsection
21 (c) with respect to—

22 (1) the Popular Resistance Committees;

23 (2) any foreign person that is an official, agent,
24 or affiliate of a foreign person described in para-
25 graph (1);

1 (3) any foreign person that is owned or con-
2 trolled by a foreign person described in paragraph
3 (1) or (2); and

4 (4) any current or future armed organization
5 the President determines is operating under the um-
6 brella of the Popular Resistance Committees or any
7 other person described in this subsection.

8 (c) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions de-
9 scribed in this subsection are the following:

10 (1) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—The President
11 shall exercise all of the powers granted to the Presi-
12 dent under the International Emergency Economic
13 Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent
14 necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in
15 property and interests in property of a foreign per-
16 son described in subsection (b) if such property and
17 interests in property are in the United States, come
18 within the United States, or are or come within the
19 possession or control of a United States person.

20 (2) ALIENS INADMISSABLE FOR VISAS, ADMIS-
21 SION, OR PAROLE.—

22 (A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—An
23 alien who the Secretary of State or the Sec-
24 retary of Homeland Security (or a designee of

1 one of such Secretaries) knows, or has reason
2 to believe, is described in subsection (b) is—

3 (i) inadmissible to the United States;

4 (ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other
5 documentation to enter the United States;

6 and

7 (iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted
8 or paroled into the United States or to re-
9 ceive any other benefit under the Immigra-
10 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et
11 seq.).

12 (B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

13 (i) IN GENERAL.—The issuing con-
14 sular officer, the Secretary of State, or the
15 Secretary of Homeland Security (or a des-
16 ignee of one of such Secretaries) shall, in
17 accordance with section 221(i) of the Im-
18 migration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
19 1201(i)), revoke any visa or other entry
20 documentation issued to an alien described
21 in subparagraph (A) regardless of when
22 the visa or other entry documentation is
23 issued.

24 (ii) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—A rev-
25 ocation under clause (i) shall take effect

1 immediately and shall automatically cancel
2 any other valid visa or entry documenta-
3 tion that is in the alien's possession.

4 (d) EXCEPTIONS.—

5 (1) UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREE-
6 MENT.—The sanctions described in subsection (c)
7 shall not apply with respect to an alien if admitting
8 or paroling the alien into the United States is nec-
9 essary to permit the United States to comply with
10 the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the
11 United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26,
12 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947,
13 between the United Nations and the United States,
14 or other applicable international obligations.

15 (2) EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE, LAW EN-
16 FORCEMENT, AND NATIONAL SECURITY ACTIVI-
17 TIES.—The sanctions in subsection (c) shall not
18 apply to any authorized intelligence, law enforce-
19 ment, or national security activities of the United
20 States.

21 (e) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in sub-
22 sections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International
23 Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall
24 apply to a person that violates, attempts to violate, con-
25 spires to violate, or causes a violation of this section, regu-

1 lations promulgated to carry out this section, or the sanc-
2 tions imposed pursuant to this section to the same extent
3 that such penalties apply to a person that commits an un-
4 lawful act described in section 206(a) of that Act.

5 (f) IMPLEMENTATION AUTHORITY.—The President
6 may exercise all authorities provided to the President
7 under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emer-
8 gency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704)
9 for purposes of carrying out this section.

10 (g) WAIVER.—The President may, for 1 or more peri-
11 ods of not more than 180 days each, waive the application
12 of sanctions imposed with respect to a foreign person
13 under this section if the President certifies to the appro-
14 priate committees of Congress, not later than 15 days be-
15 fore such waiver takes effect, that the waiver is vital to
16 the national security interests of the United States.

17 (h) TERMINATION.—The President may terminate
18 sanctions imposed with respect to any foreign person
19 under this section if the President certifies to the appro-
20 priate committees of Congress that—

21 (1) such foreign person is no longer engaging in
22 acts of terrorism, as defined for purposes of Execu-
23 tive Order 13224 (relating to blocking property and
24 prohibiting transactions with persons who commit,
25 threaten to commit, or support terrorism); or

1 (2) with respect to a foreign person that is an
2 entity, such entity has wound down.

3 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON THE DESIGNATION OF THE LIONS' DEN**
4 **AND THE POPULAR RESISTANCE COMMIT-**
5 **TEES AS SPECIALLY DESIGNATED GLOBAL**
6 **TERRORISTS.**

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

8 (1) Since its founding in 2022, Lions' Den has
9 carried out a number of terror attacks including
10 more than 61 shooting attacks against Israeli sol-
11 diers and civilians.

12 (2) The ranks of the Lions' Den include former
13 operatives from Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad,
14 and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Pal-
15 estine, all of which are designated foreign terrorist
16 organizations.

17 (3) Lions' Den receives funds from designated
18 foreign terrorist organizations Hamas and Pales-
19 tinian Islamic Jihad.

20 (b) INITIAL REPORT.—

21 (1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90
22 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
23 Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate
24 committees of Congress—

25 (A) a detailed report on whether—

1 (i) the Lions' Den meets—

2 (I) the criteria for designation as
3 a specially designated global terrorist
4 pursuant to Executive Order 13224
5 (relating to blocking property and
6 prohibiting transactions with persons
7 who commit, threaten to commit, or
8 support terrorism); and

9 (II) the criteria for designation
10 as a foreign terrorist organization
11 under section 219 of the Immigration
12 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189);
13 and

14 (ii) the Popular Resistance Commit-
15 tees meet the criteria for designation as a
16 specially designated global terrorist pursu-
17 ant to Executive Order 13224; and

18 (B) if the Secretary reaches a negative de-
19 termination with respect to any entity under
20 subparagraph (A), a detailed justification as to
21 which criteria have not been met.

22 (2) FORM.—The report required by paragraph
23 (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may
24 include a classified annex.

1 (c) ONGOING DETERMINATIONS REQUIRED.—Not
2 later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this
3 Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary of State
4 shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress
5 a report that—

6 (1) identifies each new entity operating under
7 the umbrella of the Popular Resistance Committees,
8 or any successor of the Popular Resistance Commit-
9 tees;

10 (2) includes a determination as to whether each
11 such entity meets the criteria—

12 (A) for designation as a specially des-
13 igned global terrorist pursuant to Executive
14 Order 13224 (relating to blocking property and
15 prohibiting transactions with persons who com-
16 mit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism);

17 (B) for designation as a foreign terrorist
18 organization under section 219 of the Immigra-
19 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189); or

20 (C) for the imposition of sanctions under
21 section 2; and

22 (3) provides a detailed justification in the event
23 that the Secretary identifies a new entity pursuant
24 to paragraph (1), but does not determine that the
25 entity meets the criteria for designation as a spe-

1 cially designated global terrorist or a foreign ter-
2 rorist organization or for imposition of sanctions
3 under section 2.

4 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) ADMITTED; ALIEN; LAWFULLY ADMITTED
7 FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE.—The terms “admit-
8 ted”, “alien”, and “lawfully admitted for permanent
9 residence” have the meanings given those terms in
10 section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act
11 (8 U.S.C. 1101).

12 (2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
13 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
14 gress” means—

15 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations
16 and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Sen-
17 ate; and

18 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
19 the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of
20 Representatives.

21 (3) ENTITY.—The term “entity” means a part-
22 nership, association, corporation, or other organiza-
23 tion, group, or subgroup.

24 (4) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign per-
25 son”—

1 (A) means an individual or entity that is
2 not a United States person; and

3 (B) does not include the government of a
4 foreign country.

5 (5) FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION.—The
6 term “foreign terrorist organization” means an enti-
7 ty designated as a foreign terrorist organization pur-
8 suant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nation-
9 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189).

10 (6) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term
11 “United States person” means—

12 (A) an individual who is a United States
13 citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for perma-
14 nent residence to the United States;

15 (B) an entity organized under the laws of
16 the United States or any jurisdiction within the
17 United States, including a foreign branch of
18 such an entity; or

19 (C) any person in the United States.