

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to the Houthis, and
for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. ROSEN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to
the Houthis, 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 “Houthi Human Rights
5 Accountability Act”.

6 SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

8 (1) Houthi efforts to indoctrinate Yemenis into
9 a violent, anti-Semitic, and extremist worldview are

1 a threat to a Yemeni-led peace process and to re-
2 gional stability; and

3 (2) it is counter to United States policy to pro-
4 vide support to the Houthis in Yemen, including by
5 supporting any efforts by the Houthis to indoctri-
6 nate, coerce, or force Yemenis to conform to their
7 violent, anti-Semitic, and extremist worldview.

8 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON HOUTHI INDOCTRINATION.**

9 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
10 ment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to
11 the appropriate congressional committees a report on—

12 (1) Houthi efforts to indoctrinate Yemenis into
13 a violent, anti-Semitic, or extremist worldview; and
14 (2) the long-term threat this indoctrination
15 campaign poses to regional stability.

16 **SEC. 4. REPORT ON OBSTACLES TO PROVISION OF HUMANI-
17 TARIAN AID IN AREAS OF YEMEN UNDER DE
18 FACTO HOUTHI CONTROL.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
20 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State
21 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees
22 a report on obstacles to the provision of humanitarian aid
23 by international organizations and nongovernmental orga-
24 nizations in areas of Yemen under de facto Houthi control.

1 (b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report re-
2 quired by subsection (a) shall include the following:

3 (1) An identification of challenges to distribu-
4 tion of humanitarian aid created by Houthi-enforced
5 rules, regulations, and bureaucracy with respect to
6 access, and freedom of movement, and the overall
7 impact on such rules, regulations, and bureaucracy
8 have on the international community's ability to dis-
9 tribute such aid in a manner consistent with basic
10 humanitarian principles.

11 (2) An assessment of attempted Houthi inter-
12 ference in the delivery of humanitarian aid, includ-
13 ing the manipulation or undue influence of bene-
14 ficiary lists or related data for political or military
15 purposes, and the implications of any interference on
16 civilian needs and aid distribution.

17 (3) An evaluation of the Houthis' use of vio-
18 lence and intimidation against humanitarian workers
19 and diplomats, including current and former United
20 States Embassy locally employed staff.

21 (4) An overview of the steps the United States
22 and its partners are taking to ensure humanitarian
23 assistance is delivered unhindered and consistent
24 with basic humanitarian principles, including how

1 United States-supported organizations respond to
2 attempted Houthi diversion or interference.

3 (c) SCOPE.—The report required by subsection (a)
4 shall address the period beginning on January 1, 2020,
5 and ending on the date that is 90 days after date of the
6 enactment of this Act.

7 SEC. 5. REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES COMMITTED
8 BY THE HOUTHS.

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
10 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State
11 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees
12 a report on human rights abuses committed by the
13 Houthis, including gender-based discrimination and vio-
14 lence, including—

15 (1) Mahram regulations;

16 (2) the recruitment and use of child soldiers;

17 (3) enforced disappearance;

18 (4) prolonged and arbitrary detention;

19 (5) conduct that amounts to torture; and

20 (6) unlawful killing.

21 (b) SCOPE.—The report required by subsection (a)
22 shall address the period beginning on March 1, 2015, and
23 ending on the date that is 90 days after date of the enact-
24 ment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 6. SANCTIONS AUTHORIZED UNDER THE GLOBAL**
2 **MAGNITSKY HUMAN RIGHTS AND ACCOUNT-**
3 **ABILITY ACT.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,
6 the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary
7 of the Treasury, shall submit to the appropriate congres-
8 sional committees a determination on whether foreign per-
9 sons described in subsection (b) meet the criteria for sanc-
10 tions authorized under the Global Magnitsky Human
11 Rights and Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of
12 Public Law 114–328; 22 U.S.C. 2656 note) or are respon-
13 sible for acts that constitute gross violations of inter-
14 nationally recognized human rights (as defined in section
15 502B(d)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22
16 U.S.C. 2304(d)(1))).

17 (b) **PERSONS DESCRIBED.**—A foreign person de-
18 scribed in this subsection is a foreign person that—

19 (1) is a member of the Houthis; and
20 (2) knowingly—
21 (A) imposes unlawful restrictions on the
22 delivery of humanitarian assistance in Yemen;
23 or
24 (B) engages in the human rights abuses
25 described in section 5(a).

1 **SEC. 7. SANCTIONS AUTHORIZED UNDER THE ROBERT**
2 **LEVINSON HOSTAGE TAKING AND ACCOUNT-**
3 **ABILITY ACT.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,
6 the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary
7 of the Treasury, shall submit to the appropriate congres-
8 sional committees a determination on whether foreign per-
9 sons described in subsection (b) meet the criteria for sanc-
10 tions authorized under the Robert Levinson Hostage Re-
11 covery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C.
12 1741 et seq.), and Executive Order 14078 (22 U.S.C.
13 1741 note prec.; relating to bolstering efforts to bring hos-
14 tages and wrongfully detained United States nationals
15 home).

16 (b) PERSONS DESCRIBED.—A foreign person de-
17 scribed in this subsection is a foreign person that—

18 (1) is a member of the Houthis; and
19 (2)(A) is responsible for or is complicit in, or
20 responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise di-
21 recting, the hostage taking of a United States na-
22 tional abroad or the unlawful or wrongful detention
23 of a United States national abroad; or
24 (B) knowingly provides financial, material, or
25 technological support for, or goods or services in

1 support of, an activity described in subparagraph
2 (A).

3 **SEC. 8. SUNSET.**

4 This Act shall terminate on the date that is 5 years
5 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

6 **SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act—

8 (1) the term “appropriate congressional com-
9 mittees” means—

10 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
11 the Senate;

12 (B) the Committee on Appropriations of
13 the Senate;

14 (C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
15 the House of Representatives; and

16 (D) the Committee on Appropriations of
17 the House of Representatives;

18 (2) the term “foreign person” means a person
19 that is not a United States person;

20 (3) the term “Houthis” refers to persons offi-
21 cially known as “Ansarallah”;

22 (4) the term “person” means and individual or
23 entity; and

24 (5) the term “United States person” means—
25 (A) a national of the United States;

6 such an entity.