

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2795

To increase coordination among relevant Federal departments and agencies to address United States security and humanitarian interests in Yemen, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 7, 2017

Ms. BASS (for herself, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. LEE, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. RICHMOND, and Ms. JACKSON LEE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, 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

A BILL

To increase coordination among relevant Federal departments and agencies to address United States security and humanitarian interests in Yemen, 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 “Yemen Security and
5 Humanity Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Yemen, a country that has been plagued by
4 violence and insurgency for many years, has been
5 locked in a devastating civil war since 2015.

6 (2) In April 2017, the World Food Programme
7 announced that Yemen is on the brink of “full-scale
8 famine” and classified approximately 7,000,000
9 Yemenis, including 2,200,000 children, as “severely
10 food insecure”.

11 (3) Although many factors account for the fam-
12 ine conditions in Yemen, including years of govern-
13 ment mismanagement, corruption, and natural dis-
14 asters, the World Food Programme indicates that
15 the impact of the conflict—including the destruction
16 of public services, infrastructure, transport, and
17 Yemen’s economy—is having a significant impact on
18 Yemen’s food insecurity.

19 (4) According to the United Nations Inter-
20 national Children’s Emergency Fund, a Yemeni
21 child dies every ten minutes, on average, from mal-
22 nutrition, diarrhea, or respiratory tract infections.

23 (5) Disease, war, and desperate poverty in
24 Yemen threaten United States core values and stra-
25 tegic priorities for combating global terror.

1 (6) According to the January 2014 “Worldwide
2 Threat Assessment of the US Intelligence Commu-
3 nity”—

4 (A) a “[l]ack of adequate food will be a de-
5 stabilizing factor in countries important to US
6 national security that do not have the financial
7 or technical abilities to solve their internal food
8 security problems”; and

9 (B) “[f]ood and nutrition insecurity in
10 weakly governed countries might also provide
11 opportunities for insurgent groups to capitalize
12 on poor conditions, exploit international food
13 aid, and discredit governments for their inabil-
14 ity to address basic needs”.

15 (7) Yemen imports 90 percent of its food, a
16 majority of which enters the country through the
17 port of Hodeida, currently a Houthi-controlled city.

18 (8) In response to the August 2015 bombing of
19 the port of Hodeida, the United States Agency for
20 International Development funded, in part, the re-
21 placement of port cranes destroyed in the bombing,
22 though the replacements have not been delivered be-
23 cause of current conditions on the ground despite
24 being essential to accelerate the rapid delivery of
25 food from the port.

1 (9) Relief organizations are concerned that the
2 closure of the port of Hodeida for any reason could
3 further exacerbate famine in Yemen because the ma-
4 jority of humanitarian aid enters the country
5 through that port.

6 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

8 (1) effectively addressing the famine conditions
9 in Yemen is in the national security interests of the
10 United States;

11 (2) interventions supported by the United
12 States to advance national security should also con-
13 sider the impact of military engagement on humani-
14 tarian operations in such regions; and

15 (3) bureaucratic procedures with respect to hu-
16 manitarian aid must be urgently improved and expe-
17 dited to allow for an expansion of the scale of the
18 humanitarian operations providing such aid.

19 **SEC. 4. COORDINATION IN FAMINE-RISK AREAS.**

20 Section 5(a) of the Global Food Security Act of 2016
21 (22 U.S.C. 9304(a)) is amended—

22 (1) in paragraph (16), by striking “and” at the
23 end;

24 (2) in paragraph (17), by striking the period at
25 the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

2 “(18) facilitate coordination between the United
3 States Agency for International Development, the
4 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Hu-
5 manitarian Affairs, and United States military per-
6 sonnel, with respect to famine-risk areas.”.

7 **SEC. 5. UNITED STATES SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN**
8 **SUPPORT STRATEGY FOR YEMEN.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
10 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State
11 and the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Ad-
12 ministrator of the United States Agency for International
13 Development, shall jointly submit to Congress a com-
14 prehensive report on United States security and humani-
15 tarian interests in Yemen, including each of the following:

16 (1) The strategic objectives of the United
17 States in Yemen, including humanitarian support to
18 civilian populations under threat of famine, and the
19 criteria for determining the success of such objec-
20 tives.

21 (2) A description of efforts to coordinate civil-
22 ian and military efforts with respect to Yemen.

- 1 (3) A description of the diplomatic strategy
- 2 with respect to regional partners seeking to end the
- 3 civil war in Yemen.

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