

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 31

AN ACT

To require certain additional actions in connection with the national emergency with respect to Syria, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Caesar Syria Civilian
3 Protection Act of 2019”.

4 **TITLE I—ADDITIONAL ACTIONS**
5 **IN CONNECTION WITH THE**
6 **NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH**
7 **RESPECT TO SYRIA**

8 **SEC. 101. MEASURES WITH RESPECT TO CENTRAL BANK OF**
9 **SYRIA.**

10 (a) DETERMINATION REGARDING CENTRAL BANK OF
11 SYRIA.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the en-
12 actment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall
13 determine, under section 5318A of title 31, United States
14 Code, whether reasonable grounds exist for concluding
15 that the Central Bank of Syria is a financial institution
16 of primary money laundering concern.

17 (b) ENHANCED DUE DILIGENCE AND REPORTING
18 REQUIREMENTS.—If the Secretary of the Treasury deter-
19 mines under subsection (a) that reasonable grounds exist
20 for concluding that the Central Bank of Syria is a finan-
21 cial institution of primary money laundering concern, the
22 Secretary, in consultation with the Federal functional reg-
23 ulators (as defined in section 509 of the Gramm-Leach-
24 Bliley Act (15 U.S.C. 6809)), shall impose one or more
25 of the special measures described in section 5318A(b) of

1 title 31, United States Code, with respect to the Central
2 Bank of Syria.

3 (c) REPORT REQUIRED.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
5 making a determination under subsection (a) as to
6 whether or not the Central Bank of Syria is a finan-
7 cial institution of primary money laundering con-
8 cern, the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit to
9 the appropriate congressional committees a report
10 that includes the reasons for the determination.

11 (2) FORM.—A report required by paragraph (1)
12 shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may in-
13 clude a classified annex.

14 (3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
15 TEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “ap-
16 propriate congressional committees” means—

17 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
18 Committee on Financial Services, and the Com-
19 mittee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
20 resentatives; and

21 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations,
22 the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
23 Urban Affairs, and the Committee on Appro-
24 priations of the Senate.

1 **SEC. 102. SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN PER-**
2 **SONS THAT ENGAGE IN CERTAIN TRANS-**
3 **ACTIONS.**

4 (a) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—On and after the date that
6 is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this
7 Act, the President shall impose the sanctions de-
8 scribed in subsection (b) with respect to a foreign
9 person if the President determines that the foreign
10 person, on or after such date of enactment, know-
11 ingly engages in an activity described in paragraph
12 (2).

13 (2) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—A foreign person
14 engages in an activity described in this paragraph if
15 the foreign person—

16 (A) knowingly provides significant finan-
17 cial, material, or technological support to, or
18 knowingly engages in a significant transaction
19 with—

20 (i) the Government of Syria (including
21 any entity owned or controlled by the Gov-
22 ernment of Syria) or a senior political fig-
23 ure of the Government of Syria;

24 (ii) a foreign person that is a military
25 contractor, mercenary, or a paramilitary
26 force knowingly operating in a military ca-

1 capacity inside Syria for or on behalf of the
2 Government of Syria, the Government of
3 the Russian Federation, or the Govern-
4 ment of Iran; or

5 (iii) a foreign person subject to sanc-
6 tions pursuant to the International Emer-
7 gency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C.
8 1701 et seq.) with respect to Syria or any
9 other provision of law that imposes sanc-
10 tions with respect to Syria;

11 (B) knowingly sells or provides significant
12 goods, services, technology, information, or
13 other support that significantly facilitates the
14 maintenance or expansion of the Government of
15 Syria's domestic production of natural gas, pe-
16 troleum, or petroleum products;

17 (C) knowingly sells or provides aircraft or
18 spare aircraft parts that are used for military
19 purposes in Syria for or on behalf of the Gov-
20 ernment of Syria to any foreign person oper-
21 ating in an area directly or indirectly controlled
22 by the Government of Syria or foreign forces
23 associated with the Government of Syria;

24 (D) knowingly provides significant goods
25 or services associated with the operation of air-

1 craft that are used for military purposes in
2 Syria for or on behalf of the Government of
3 Syria to any foreign person operating in an
4 area described in subparagraph (C); or

5 (E) knowingly, directly or indirectly, pro-
6 vides significant construction or engineering
7 services to the Government of Syria.

8 (3) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
9 Congress that, in implementing this section, the
10 President should consider financial support under
11 paragraph (2)(A) to include the provision of loans,
12 credits, or export credits.

13 (b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions to be imposed
15 with respect to a foreign person subject to sub-
16 section (a) are the following:

17 (A) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—The Presi-
18 dent shall exercise all of the powers granted to
19 the President under the International Emer-
20 gency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et
21 seq.) to the extent necessary to block and pro-
22 hibit all transactions in property and interests
23 in property of the foreign person if such prop-
24 erty and interests in property are in the United
25 States, come within the United States, or are or

1 come within the possession or control of a
2 United States person.

3 (B) ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS, AD-
4 MISSION, OR PAROLE.—

5 (i) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

6 An alien who the Secretary of State or the
7 Secretary of Homeland Security (or a des-
8 ignee of one of such Secretaries) knows, or
9 has reason to believe, has knowingly en-
10 gaged in any activity described in sub-
11 section (a)(2) is—

12 (I) inadmissible to the United
13 States;

14 (II) ineligible to receive a visa or
15 other documentation to enter the
16 United States; and

17 (III) otherwise ineligible to be
18 admitted or paroled into the United
19 States or to receive any other benefit
20 under the Immigration and Nation-
21 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

22 (ii) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

23 (I) IN GENERAL.—The issuing
24 consular officer, the Secretary of
25 State, or the Secretary of Homeland

1 Security (or a designee of one of such
2 Secretaries) shall, in accordance with
3 section 221(i) of the Immigration and
4 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)),
5 revoke any visa or other entry docu-
6 mentation issued to an alien described
7 in clause (i) regardless of when the
8 visa or other entry documentation is
9 issued.

10 (II) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—

11 A revocation under subclause (I)—

12 (aa) shall take effect imme-
13 diately; and

14 (bb) shall automatically can-
15 cel any other valid visa or entry
16 documentation that is in the
17 alien's possession.

18 (2) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in
19 subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the Inter-
20 national Emergency Economic Powers Act (50
21 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that violates,
22 attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a
23 violation of regulations promulgated under section
24 303 to carry out paragraph (1)(A) to the same ex-
25 tent that such penalties apply to a person that com-

1 mits an unlawful act described in section 206(a) of
2 that Act.

3 (3) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NA-
4 TIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.—Sanctions
5 under paragraph (1)(B) shall not apply with respect
6 to an alien if admitting or paroling the alien into the
7 United States is necessary to permit the United
8 States to comply with the Agreement regarding the
9 Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake
10 Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force No-
11 vember 21, 1947, between the United Nations and
12 the United States, or other applicable international
13 obligations.

14 **TITLE II—ASSISTANCE FOR THE**
15 **PEOPLE OF SYRIA**

16 **SEC. 201. CODIFICATION OF CERTAIN SERVICES IN SUP-**
17 **PORT OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZA-**
18 **TIONS' ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection
20 (b), section 542.516 of title 31, Code of Federal Regula-
21 tions (relating to certain services in support of nongovern-
22 mental organizations' activities authorized), as in effect on
23 the day before the date of the enactment of this Act,
24 shall—

1 (1) remain in effect on and after such date of
2 enactment; and

3 (2) in the case of a nongovernmental organiza-
4 tion that is authorized to export or reexport services
5 to Syria under such section on the day before such
6 date of enactment, apply to such organization on
7 and after such date of enactment to the same extent
8 and in the same manner as such section applied to
9 such organization on the day before such date of en-
10 actment.

11 (b) EXCEPTION.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 542.516 of title 31,
13 Code of Federal Regulations, as codified under sub-
14 section (a), shall not apply with respect to a foreign
15 person that has been designated as a foreign ter-
16 rorist organization under section 219 of the Immigra-
17 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189), or oth-
18 erwise designated as a terrorist organization, by the
19 Secretary of State, in consultation with or upon the
20 request of the Attorney General or the Secretary of
21 Homeland Security.

22 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall
23 apply with respect to a foreign person on and after
24 the date on which the designation of that person as

1 a terrorist organization is published in the Federal
2 Register.

3 **SEC. 202. BRIEFING ON STRATEGY TO FACILITATE HUMANI-**
4 **TARIAN ASSISTANCE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
6 date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall brief
7 the appropriate congressional committees on the strategy
8 of the President to help facilitate the ability of humani-
9 tarian organizations to access financial services to help fa-
10 cilitate the safe and timely delivery of assistance to com-
11 munities in need in Syria.

12 (b) CONSIDERATION OF DATA FROM OTHER COUN-
13 TRIES AND NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.—In
14 preparing the strategy required by subsection (a), the
15 President shall consider credible data already obtained by
16 other countries and nongovernmental organizations, in-
17 cluding organizations operating in Syria.

18 (c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-
19 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congres-
20 sional committees” means—

21 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
22 Committee on Financial Services, and the Com-
23 mittee on Appropriations of the House of Represent-
24 atives; and

1 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the
2 Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Af-
3 fairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the
4 Senate.

5 **TITLE III—GENERAL**
6 **PROVISIONS**

7 **SEC. 301. SUSPENSION OF SANCTIONS.**

8 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The President may suspend in
9 whole or in part the imposition of sanctions otherwise re-
10 quired under this Act for periods not to exceed 180 days
11 if the President determines that the following criteria have
12 been met in Syria:

13 (1) The air space over Syria is no longer being
14 utilized by the Government of Syria or the Govern-
15 ment of the Russian Federation to target civilian
16 populations through the use of incendiary devices,
17 including barrel bombs, chemical weapons, and con-
18 ventional arms, including air-delivered missiles and
19 explosives.

20 (2) Areas besieged by the Government of Syria,
21 the Government of the Russian Federation, the Gov-
22 ernment of Iran, or a foreign person described in
23 section 102(a)(2)(A)(ii) are no longer cut off from
24 international aid and have regular access to humani-

1 tarian assistance, freedom of travel, and medical
2 care.

3 (3) The Government of Syria is releasing all po-
4 litical prisoners forcibly held within the prison sys-
5 tem of the regime of Bashar al-Assad and the Gov-
6 ernment of Syria is allowing full access to the same
7 facilities for investigations by appropriate inter-
8 national human rights organizations.

9 (4) The forces of the Government of Syria, the
10 Government of the Russian Federation, the Govern-
11 ment of Iran, and any foreign person described in
12 section 102(a)(2)(A)(ii) are no longer engaged in de-
13 liberate targeting of medical facilities, schools, resi-
14 dential areas, and community gathering places, in-
15 cluding markets, in violation of international norms.

16 (5) The Government of Syria is—

17 (A) taking steps to verifiably fulfill its
18 commitments under the Convention on the Pro-
19 hibition of the Development, Production, Stock-
20 piling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on
21 their Destruction, done at Geneva September 3,
22 1992, and entered into force April 29, 1997
23 (commonly known as the “Chemical Weapons
24 Convention”), and the Treaty on the Non-Pro-
25 liferation of Nuclear Weapons, done at Wash-

1 ington, London, and Moscow July 1, 1968, and
2 entered into force March 5, 1970 (21 UST
3 483); and

4 (B) making tangible progress toward be-
5 coming a signatory to the Convention on the
6 Prohibition of the Development, Production and
7 Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and
8 Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, done
9 at Washington, London, and Moscow April 10,
10 1972, and entered into force March 26, 1975
11 (26 UST 583).

12 (6) The Government of Syria is permitting the
13 safe, voluntary, and dignified return of Syrians dis-
14 placed by the conflict.

15 (7) The Government of Syria is taking
16 verifiable steps to establish meaningful account-
17 ability for perpetrators of war crimes in Syria and
18 justice for victims of war crimes committed by the
19 Assad regime, including by participation in a cred-
20 ible and independent truth and reconciliation proc-
21 ess.

22 (b) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days
23 after the President makes a determination described in
24 subsection (a), the President shall provide a briefing to
25 the appropriate congressional committees on the deter-

1 mination and the suspension of sanctions pursuant to the
2 determination.

3 (c) REIMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—Any sanctions
4 suspended under subsection (a) shall be reimposed if the
5 President determines that the criteria described in that
6 subsection are no longer being met.

7 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
8 tion shall be construed to limit the authority of the Presi-
9 dent to terminate the application of sanctions under sec-
10 tion 102 with respect to a person that no longer engages
11 in activities described in subsection (a)(2) of that section.

12 (e) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-
13 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congres-
14 sional committees” means—

15 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
16 Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on
17 Ways and Means, the Committee on the Judiciary,
18 and the Committee on Appropriations of the House
19 of Representatives; and

20 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the
21 Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Af-
22 fairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Com-
23 mittee on Appropriations of the Senate.

1 **SEC. 302. EXEMPTIONS; WAIVERS; EXCEPTION RELATING**
2 **TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.**

3 (a) EXEMPTIONS.—The following activities and
4 transactions shall be exempt from sanctions authorized
5 under this Act:

6 (1) Any activity subject to the reporting re-
7 quirements under title V of the National Security
8 Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.), or to any au-
9 thorized law enforcement, national security, or intel-
10 ligence activities of the United States.

11 (2) Any transaction necessary to comply with
12 United States obligations under—

13 (A) the Agreement regarding the Head-
14 quarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake
15 Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force
16 November 21, 1947, between the United Na-
17 tions and the United States;

18 (B) the Convention on Consular Relations,
19 done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and entered
20 into force March 19, 1967; or

21 (C) any other international agreement to
22 which the United States is a party.

23 (b) WAIVER.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President may, for peri-
25 ods not to exceed 180 days, waive the application of
26 any sanction authorized under this Act with respect

1 to a foreign person if the President certifies to the
2 appropriate congressional committees that such a
3 waiver is in the national security interests of the
4 United States.

5 (2) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after
6 the issuance of a waiver under paragraph (1), and
7 every 180 days thereafter while the waiver remains
8 in effect, the President shall brief the appropriate
9 congressional committees on the reasons for the
10 waiver.

11 (c) HUMANITARIAN WAIVER.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive,
13 for renewable periods not to exceed 2 years, the ap-
14 plication of any sanction authorized under this Act
15 with respect to a nongovernmental organization pro-
16 viding humanitarian assistance not covered by the
17 authorization described in section 201 if the Presi-
18 dent certifies to the appropriate congressional com-
19 mittees that such a waiver is important to address
20 a humanitarian need and is consistent with the na-
21 tional security interests of the United States.

22 (2) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after
23 the issuance of a waiver under paragraph (1), and
24 every 180 days thereafter while the waiver remains
25 in effect, the President shall brief the appropriate

1 congressional committees on the reasons for the
2 waiver.

3 (d) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF
4 GOODS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The authorities and require-
6 ments to impose sanctions authorized under this Act
7 shall not include the authority or requirement to im-
8 pose sanctions on the importation of goods.

9 (2) GOOD DEFINED.—In this subsection, the
10 term “good” means any article, natural or man-
11 made substance, material, supply or manufactured
12 product, including inspection and test equipment,
13 and excluding technical data.

14 (e) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-
15 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congres-
16 sional committees” means—

17 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
18 Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on
19 Ways and Means, the Committee on the Judiciary,
20 and the Committee on Appropriations of the House
21 of Representatives; and

22 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the
23 Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Af-
24 fairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Com-
25 mittee on Appropriations of the Senate.

1 **SEC. 303. REGULATORY AUTHORITIES.**

2 The President shall, not later than 180 days after
3 the date of the enactment of this Act, promulgate regula-
4 tions as necessary for the implementation of this Act.

5 **SEC. 304. SUNSET.**

6 This Act shall cease to be effective on the date that
7 is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

 Passed the House of Representatives January 22,
2019.

Attest:

Clerk.

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To require certain additional actions in connection with the national emergency with respect to Syria, and for other purposes.