

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3611

To restrict the diplomatic travel of officials and representatives of state
sponsors of terrorism, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 22, 2009

Mr. BROUN of Georgia (for himself, Mr. BOREN, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. GARRETT
of New Jersey, Mr. LINDER, and Mr. TAYLOR) introduced the following
bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To restrict the diplomatic travel of officials and representa-
tives of state sponsors of terrorism, and for other pur-
poses.

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 “Limiting the Intrusive
5 Miles of International Terrorist Sponsors Act of 2009”
6 or the “LIMITS Act of 2009”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Countries designated as state sponsors of
2 terrorism represent a threat to the national security
3 of the United States.

4 (2) The United States is obligated to permit of-
5 ficials and other representatives of countries des-
6 igned as state sponsors of terrorism to travel to
7 New York City to attend meetings and conduct offi-
8 cial business at the United Nations.

9 (3) Individuals from countries not otherwise le-
10 gally permitted to travel to the United States are
11 given visas for delegates and representatives to the
12 United Nations and other related diplomatic pur-
13 poses.

14 (4) These delegates and representatives are in
15 addition to the number of domestically assigned na-
16 tionals living in the United States.

17 (5) Between January 1, 2004, and March 31,
18 2009, the Department of State issued, with full dip-
19 lomatic immunity, 2,386 visas to delegates and rep-
20 resentatives from Cuba, 2,585 visas to delegates and
21 representatives from Iran, 2,053 visas to delegates
22 and representatives from Sudan, 732 visas to dele-
23 gates and representatives from Syria, and 869 to
24 delegates and representatives from other state spon-
25 sors of terrorism.

1 (6) The delegates and representatives from Iran
2 and Cuba, which are state sponsors of terrorism, are
3 currently permitted to travel up to 25 miles from
4 Columbus Circle in New York City for United Na-
5 tions activities, far beyond the necessary working vi-
6 cinity of the United Nations, giving them access not
7 only to Manhattan, but to surrounding cities and
8 States.

9 (7) The delegates and representatives from
10 Syria and Sudan, both state sponsors of terrorism,
11 are currently permitted to travel throughout the
12 United States without any mileage restrictions.

13 (8) In June 2002, November 2003, and June
14 2004, Iranian diplomatic personnel from the Iranian
15 Mission to the United Nations were caught
16 photographing and videotaping the New York City
17 subway and other popular landmarks.

18 (9) The Department of State expelled these in-
19 dividuals for being engaged in activities not con-
20 sistent with their duties.

21 (10) Issuing approximately 8,625 visas over the
22 past 5 years to personnel from countries designated
23 as state sponsors of terrorism, without proper
24 boundaries, creates a major security vulnerability
25 within the United States.

1 (11) The presence of hundreds of individuals
2 with diplomatic immunity from countries designated
3 as state sponsors of terrorism is overwhelming
4 United States counterterrorism and intelligence re-
5 sources.

6 (12) The United States has an obligation to
7 protect the American people against such threats.

8 **SEC. 3. RESTRICTION ON DIPLOMATIC TRAVEL OF OFFI-**
9 **CIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF STATE**
10 **SPONSORS OF TERRORISM.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
12 sion of law, and except as provided in subsections (b) and
13 (c), the President shall restrict to the designated area the
14 travel of officials and representatives of countries that are
15 designated as state sponsors of terrorism who are visiting
16 the United Nations headquarters complex in connection
17 with official business at the United Nations headquarters
18 complex.

19 (b) WAIVER.—The President may waive the travel re-
20 striction described in subsection (a) if the President—

21 (1) determines that it is in the interest of na-
22 tional defense of the United States to do so; and

23 (2) submits to Congress a report that contains
24 the reasons for such determination not later than 30
25 days after the issuance of such waiver.

1 (c) EXCEPTIONS.—

2 (1) INGRESS AND EGRESS.—For purposes of
3 this section, the restriction on travel referred to in
4 subsection (a) shall not include travel to and from
5 John F. Kennedy International Airport or
6 LaGuardia Airport to the designated area in connec-
7 tion with official business at the United Nations
8 headquarters complex. Travel between the des-
9 ignated area and such airports shall be direct and
10 without any intervening stops.

11 (2) ACCOMMODATIONS.—For purposes of this
12 section, the restriction on travel referred to in sub-
13 section (a) shall not include travel to and from any
14 lodgings or other hotel accommodations in which an
15 official or representative is staying if such lodging or
16 other hotel accommodation is within the designated
17 area. Such permissible travel within the designated
18 area may be made only by land.

19 (3) MEDICAL EMERGENCIES.—For purposes of
20 this section, the restriction on travel referred to in
21 subsection (a) shall not include travel to and from
22 New York University medical center or Bellevue
23 Hospital Center for emergency medical care.

24 (d) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

1 (1) ON TRAVEL.—Nothing in this Act shall be
2 construed to prohibit the placement of additional re-
3 strictions by the City of New York, the State of New
4 York, or the law enforcement agencies of such City
5 or State on the travel within the designated area of
6 officials and representatives of countries that are
7 designated as state sponsors of terrorism.

8 (2) OTHER RESTRICTIONS.—Nothing in this
9 Act shall be construed to prohibit the placement by
10 the President of additional restrictions on officials
11 and representatives of countries that are designated
12 as state sponsors or terrorism.

13 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act shall take effect on
14 the date that is 60 days after the date of the enactment
15 of this Act.

16 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

17 (1) DESIGNATED AREA.—The term “designated
18 area” means an area not greater than one-half of
19 one mile (0.5 miles) in any direction on the island
20 of Manhattan from the United Nations headquarters
21 complex, but does not include any waterway.

22 (2) STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM.—The term
23 “state sponsor of terrorism” means a country the
24 government of which has been determined by the
25 Secretary of State, for purposes of section 6(j) of

1 the Export Administration Act of 1979, section
2 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, section
3 40 of the Arms Export Control Act, or other provi-
4 sion of law, is a government that has repeatedly pro-
5 vided support for acts of international terrorism.

6 (3) UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS COM-
7 PLEX.—The term “United Nations headquarters
8 complex” means the complex of United Nations
9 buildings located in the City of New York, on First
10 Avenue between 42nd Street and 48th Street, with
11 the street address of 760 United Nations Plaza.

