

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 894

To provide for an annual comprehensive report on the status of United States efforts and the level of progress achieved to counter and defeat Al Qaeda and its related affiliates and undermine long-term support for the violent extremism that helps sustain Al Qaeda's recruitment efforts.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 23, 2009

Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. BAYH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To provide for an annual comprehensive report on the status of United States efforts and the level of progress achieved to counter and defeat Al Qaeda and its related affiliates and undermine long-term support for the violent extremism that helps sustain Al Qaeda's recruitment efforts.

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 “Success in Countering
5 Al Qaeda Reporting Requirements Act of 2009”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) Al Qaeda and its related affiliates attacked
4 the United States on September 11, 2001 in New
5 York, New York, Arlington, Virginia, and Shanks-
6 ville, Pennsylvania, murdering almost 3000 innocent
7 civilians.

8 (2) Osama bin Laden and his deputy Ayman al-
9 Zawahiri remain at large.

10 (3) In testimony to the Select Committee on In-
11 telligence of the Senate on February 12, 2009, Di-
12 rector of National Intelligence Dennis C. Blair stat-
13 ed, “al-Qa’ida and its affiliates and allies remain
14 dangerous and adaptive enemies, and the threat they
15 could inspire or orchestrate an attack on the United
16 States or European countries. . . . Although al-
17 Qa’ida’s core organization in the tribal areas of
18 Pakistan is under greater pressure now than it was
19 a year ago, we assess that it remains the most dan-
20 gerous component of the larger al-Qa’ida network.
21 Al-Qa’ida leaders still use the tribal areas as a base
22 from which they can avoid capture, produce propa-
23 ganda, communicate with operational cells abroad,
24 and provide training and indoctrination to new ter-
25 rorist operatives.”.

1 (4) The most recent authoritative National In-
2 telligence Estimate issued on the threat posed by Al
3 Qaeda, released in July 2007, states “Al-Qa’ida is
4 and will remain the most serious terrorist threat to
5 the Homeland”.

6 (5) Efforts to combat violent extremism and
7 radicalism must be undertaken using all elements of
8 national power, including military tools, intelligence
9 assets, law enforcement resources, diplomacy, para-
10 military activities, financial measures, development
11 assistance, strategic communications, and public di-
12 plomacy.

13 (6) In the report entitled “Suggested Areas for
14 Oversight for the 110th Congress” (GAO–08–235R,
15 November 17, 2006), the Government Accountability
16 Office urged greater congressional oversight in as-
17 sessing the effectiveness and coordination of United
18 States international programs focused on combating
19 and preventing the growth of terrorism and its un-
20 derlying causes.

21 (7) Section 140(a) of the Foreign Relations Au-
22 thorization Act, Fiscal Years 1988 and 1989 (22
23 U.S.C. 2656f(a)) requires that the Secretary of
24 State submit annual reports to Congress that detail
25 key developments on terrorism on a country-by-coun-

try basis. These Country Reports on Terrorism provide information on acts of terrorism in countries, major developments in bilateral and multilateral counterterrorism cooperation, and the extent of State support for terrorist groups responsible for the death, kidnapping, or injury of Americans, but do not assess the scope and efficacy of United States counterterrorism efforts against Al Qaeda and its related affiliates.

(8) The Executive Branch submits regular reports to Congress that detail the status of United States combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, including a breakdown of budgetary allocations, key milestones achieved, and measures of political, economic, and military progress.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) 8 years after the attacks on September 11, 2001, Al Qaeda and its related affiliates remain the most serious national security threat to the United States, with alarming signs that Al Qaeda and its related affiliates have reconstituted their strength and ability to generate new attacks throughout the world, including against the United States;

1 (2) there remains insufficient information on
2 current counterterrorism efforts undertaken by the
3 Federal Government and the level of success
4 achieved by specific initiatives;

5 (3) Congress and the American people can ben-
6 efit from more specific data and metrics that can
7 provide the basis for objective external assessments
8 of the progress being made in the overall war being
9 waged against violent extremism;

10 (4) the absence of a comparable timely assess-
11 ment of the ongoing status and progress of United
12 States counterterrorism efforts against Al Qaeda
13 and its related affiliates hampers the ability of Con-
14 gress and the American people to independently de-
15 termine whether the United States is making signifi-
16 cant progress in this defining struggle of our time;
17 and

18 (5) the Executive Branch should submit a com-
19 prehensive report to Congress, updated on an annual
20 basis, which provides a more strategic perspective
21 regarding—

22 (A) the United States highest global
23 counterterrorism priorities;

24 (B) the United States efforts to combat
25 and defeat Al Qaeda and its related affiliates;

1 (C) the United States efforts to undercut
2 long-term support for the violent extremism
3 that sustains Al Qaeda and its related affiliates;

4 (D) the progress made by the United
5 States as a result of such efforts;

6 (E) the efficacy and efficiency of the
7 United States resource allocations; and

8 (F) whether the existing activities and op-
9 erations of the United States are actually di-
10 minishing the national security threat posed by
11 Al Qaeda and its related affiliates.

12 **SEC. 4. ANNUAL COUNTERTERRORISM STATUS REPORTS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than July 31, 2010, and
14 every July 31 thereafter, the President shall submit a re-
15 port, to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Sen-
16 ate, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of
17 Representatives, the Committee on Armed Services of the
18 Senate, the Committee on Armed Services of the House
19 of Representatives, the Committee on Appropriations of
20 the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the House
21 of Representatives, the Select Committee on Intelligence
22 of the Senate, and the Permanent Select Committee on
23 Intelligence of the House of Representatives, which con-
24 tains, for the most recent 12-month period, a review of

1 the counterterrorism strategy of the United States Gov-
2 ernment, including—

3 (1) a detailed assessment of the scope, status,
4 and progress of United States counterterrorism ef-
5 forts in fighting Al Qaeda and its related affiliates
6 and undermining long-term support for violent extre-
7 mism;

8 (2) a judgment on the geographical region in
9 which Al Qaeda and its related affiliates pose the
10 greatest threat to the national security of the United
11 States;

12 (3) an evaluation of the extent to which the
13 counterterrorism efforts of the United States cor-
14 respond to the plans developed by the National
15 Counterterrorism Center and the goals established in
16 overarching public statements of strategy issued by
17 the executive branch;

18 (4) a description of the efforts of the United
19 States Government to combat Al Qaeda and its re-
20 lated affiliates and undermine violent extremist ide-
21 ology, which shall include—

22 (A) a specific list of the President's highest
23 global counterterrorism priorities;

24 (B) the degree of success achieved by the
25 United States, and remaining areas for prog-

1 ress, in meeting the priorities described in sub-
2 paragraph (A); and

3 (C) efforts in those countries in which the
4 President determines that—

5 (i) Al Qaeda and its related affiliates
6 have a presence; or

7 (ii) acts of international terrorism
8 have been perpetrated by Al Qaeda and its
9 related affiliates;

10 (5) the specific status and achievements of
11 United States counterterrorism efforts, through mili-
12 tary, financial, political, intelligence, and para-
13 military elements, relating to—

14 (A) bilateral security and training pro-
15 grams;

16 (B) law enforcement and border security;

17 (C) the disruption of terrorist networks;

18 and

19 (D) the denial of terrorist safe havens and
20 sanctuaries;

21 (6) a description of United States Government
22 activities to counterterrorist recruitment and radical-
23 ization, including—

24 (A) strategic communications;

25 (B) public diplomacy;

1 (C) support for economic development and
2 political reform; and

3 (D) other efforts aimed at influencing pub-
4 lic opinion;

5 (7) United States Government initiatives to
6 eliminate direct and indirect international financial
7 support for the activities of terrorist groups;

8 (8) a cross-cutting analysis of the budgets of all
9 Federal Government agencies as they relate to
10 counterterrorism funding to battle Al Qaeda and its
11 related affiliates abroad, including—

12 (A) the source of such funds; and

13 (B) the allocation and use of such funds;

14 (9) an analysis of the extent to which specific
15 Federal appropriations—

16 (A) have produced tangible, calculable re-
17 sults in efforts to combat and defeat Al Qaeda,
18 its related affiliates, and its violent ideology; or

19 (B) contribute to investments that have ex-
20 pected payoffs in the medium- to long-term;

21 (10) statistical assessments, including those de-
22 veloped by the National Counterterrorism Center, on
23 the number of individuals belonging to Al Qaeda and
24 its related affiliates that have been killed, injured, or

1 taken into custody as a result of United States
2 counterterrorism efforts; and

3 (11) a concise summary of the methods used by
4 National Counterterrorism Center and other ele-
5 ments of the United States Government to assess
6 and evaluate progress in its overall counterterrorism
7 efforts, including the use of specific measures,
8 metrics, and indices.

9 (b) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.—In preparing a
10 report under this section, the President shall include rel-
11 evant information maintained by—

12 (1) the National Counterterrorism Center and
13 the National Counterproliferation Center;

14 (2) Department of Justice, including the Fed-
15 eral Bureau of Investigation;

16 (3) the Department of State;

17 (4) the Department of Defense;

18 (5) the Department of Homeland Security;

19 (6) the Department of the Treasury;

20 (7) the Office of the Director of National Intel-
21 ligence;

22 (8) the Central Intelligence Agency;

23 (9) the Office of Management and Budget;

24 (10) the United States Agency for International
25 Development; and

1 (11) any other Federal department that main-
2 tains relevant information.

3 (c) REPORT CLASSIFICATION.—Each report required
4 under this section shall be—

5 (1) submitted in an unclassified form, to the
6 maximum extent practicable; and

7 (2) accompanied by a classified appendix, as
8 appropriate.

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