

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3249

To require a report on the designation of Boko Haram as a foreign terrorist organization, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 24, 2012

Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts (for himself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, and Mr. RISCH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To require a report on the designation of Boko Haram as a foreign terrorist organization, 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 “Boko Haram Terrorist
5 Designation Act of 2012”.

6 **SEC. 2. REPORT ON DESIGNATION OF BOKO HARAM AS A**
7 **FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

9 (1) On August 26, 2011, a vehicle borne explo-
10 sive device (VBIED) was detonated after being driv-

1 en into the lobby of a United Nations facility in
2 Abuja, Nigeria. At least 21 people died as a result
3 of the explosion, and the Islamist militant organiza-
4 tion commonly called “Boko Haram” claimed re-
5 sponsibility.

6 (2) On December 25, 2011, a series of bombs
7 were detonated across northern Nigeria. Some of
8 these attacks killed worshippers attending Christmas
9 Day services, and killed an estimated total of 41
10 people. Boko Haram claimed responsibility.

11 (3) From their inception, Boko Haram has
12 killed hundreds of innocent civilians and has contin-
13 ually enhanced its lethality, pledging to continue its
14 use of terrorist tactics. In a July 2010 statement,
15 Boko Haram’s leader, Abubakar Shekau, issued sup-
16 port to al Qaeda and made threatening remarks to
17 the United States.

18 (4) On January 31, 2012, in testimony before
19 Congress, Director of National Intelligence James
20 Clapper included Boko Haram in his worldwide
21 threat assessment, stating, “There are also fears
22 that Boko Haram—elements of which have engaged
23 al-Qa’ida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM)—is inter-
24 ested in hitting Western targets, such as the U.S.
25 Embassy and hotels frequented by Westerners.”.

1 (5) On February 23, 2012, United States Am-
2 bassador to Nigeria Terrence P. McCulley indicated
3 Boko Haram’s danger was expanding. He said,
4 “‘We’ve seen an increase in sophistication, we’ve seen
5 increased lethality. We saw at last a part of the
6 group has decided it’s in their interest to attack the
7 international community.’”.

8 (6) On February 27, 2012, at a conference held
9 by the African Society of the National Summit on
10 Africa, former United States Ambassador to Nigeria
11 Howard F. Jeter described Boko Haram by saying,
12 “‘It is a terrorist group. If you kill 28 innocent peo-
13 ple worshipping in a church, it is a terrorist group.’”.

14 (7) The Foreign Office of the United Kingdom
15 of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, a major
16 United States ally, publicly refers to Boko Haram as
17 the “main terrorist threat in Nigeria”.

18 (b) REPORT.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after
20 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
21 of State shall submit to the appropriate congres-
22 sional committees—

23 (A) a detailed report on whether the Nige-
24 rian organization named “People Committed to
25 the Propagation of the Prophet’s Teachings and

Jihad” (commonly known as “Boko Haram” and by other aliases, including Ansaru and Jama’atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda’awati Wal-Jihad), meets the criteria for designation as a foreign terrorist organization under section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189); and

(B) if the Secretary of State determines that Boko Haram does not meet such criteria, a detailed justification as to which criteria have not been met.

(2) FORM.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex if appropriate.

(3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Permanent

1 Select Committee on Intelligence of the House
2 of Representatives.

3 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
4 may be construed to infringe upon the sovereignty of the
5 Government of Nigeria to combat militant or terrorist
6 groups operating inside the boundaries of Nigeria.

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