

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5949

To prohibit the use of funds to make payments to Iran relating to the settlement of claims brought before the Iran–United States Claims Tribunal until Iran has paid certain compensatory damages awarded to United States persons by United States courts.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2016

Mr. LANCE (for himself and Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To prohibit the use of funds to make payments to Iran relating to the settlement of claims brought before the Iran–United States Claims Tribunal until Iran has paid certain compensatory damages awarded to United States persons by United States courts.

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 “Victims Before Ran-
5 som Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. RESTRICTIONS ON CERTAIN PAYMENTS RELATING**
2 **TO CLAIMS BROUGHT BEFORE THE IRAN-**
3 **UNITED STATES CLAIMS TRIBUNAL.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—No amounts authorized to be ap-
5 propriated or otherwise made available for any fiscal year
6 may be obligated or expended for a payment described in
7 subsection (b) until the President certifies to Congress
8 that the Government of Iran has paid all compensatory
9 damages awarded to a United States person in a final
10 judgment—

11 (1) issued by a district court of the United
12 States under Federal or State law against the Gov-
13 ernment of Iran; and

14 (2) arising from an act of international ter-
15 rorism, for which the Government of Iran was deter-
16 mined not to be immune from the jurisdiction of the
17 courts of the United States or of the States under
18 section 1605A of title 28, United States Code, or
19 section 1605(a)(7) of such title (as in effect on Jan-
20 uary 27, 2008).

21 (b) PAYMENTS DESCRIBED.—A payment described in
22 this subsection is a payment by the United States to the
23 Government of Iran or a national of Iran relating to the
24 settlement of a claim before the Iran–United States
25 Claims Tribunal.

26 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) ACT OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM.—The
2 term “act of international terrorism” includes—

3 (A) an act of torture, extrajudicial killing,
4 aircraft sabotage, or hostage taking, as those
5 terms are defined in section 1605A(h) of title
6 28, United States Code; and

7 (B) providing material support or re-
8 sources, as defined in section 2339A of title 18,
9 United States Code, for an act described in
10 subparagraph (A).

11 (2) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term
12 “United States person” means—

13 (A) a United States citizen or an alien law-
14 fully admitted for permanent residence to the
15 United States; or

16 (B) an entity organized under the laws of
17 the United States or of any jurisdiction within
18 the United States.

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