

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. 409

Requesting information on Turkey's human rights practices in Syria pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 6, 2019

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Requesting information on Turkey's human rights practices in Syria pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON TURKEY'S**
3 **HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES IN SYRIA.**

4 (a) STATEMENT REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days
5 after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Sec-
6 retary of State shall, pursuant to section 502B(c) of the
7 Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304(c)),
8 transmit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the
9 Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
10 House of Representatives a statement, prepared with the

1 assistance of the Assistant Secretary of State for Democ-
2 racy, Human Rights, and Labor and the Office of the
3 Legal Adviser, with respect to Turkey.

4 (b) ELEMENTS.—The statement submitted under
5 subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

6 (1) All available credible information concerning
7 alleged violations of internationally recognized
8 human rights by the Government of Turkey, its
9 armed forces, and associated groups and persons, in-
10 cluding the denial of the right to life in the context
11 of their activities in Syria caused by indiscriminate
12 or disproportionate operations, the infliction of civil-
13 ian casualties, and the displacement of civilian popu-
14 lations.

15 (2) A description of the steps the United States
16 Government has taken—

17 (A) to promote respect for and observance
18 of human rights as part of Turkey's activities
19 in Syria and discourage any practices that are
20 inimical to internationally recognized human
21 rights; and

22 (B) to publicly or privately call attention
23 to, and disassociate the United States and any
24 security assistance provided for Turkey from,
25 such practices.

1 (3) An assessment, notwithstanding any such
2 practices, whether extraordinary circumstances exist
3 that necessitate a continuation of security assistance
4 for Turkey and, if so, a description of the cir-
5 cumstances and the extent to which the assistance
6 should be continued (subject to such conditions as
7 Congress may impose under section 502B of the
8 Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2304)).

9 (4) Other information, including—

10 (A) an assessment from the Secretary of
11 State of the likelihood that United States secu-
12 rity assistance, as defined in section 502B(d) of
13 the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.
14 2304(d)), has been and will be used in Syria;

15 (B) a description of the extent to which
16 the activities of the Government of Turkey, its
17 armed forces, and associated groups or persons
18 have—

19 (i) caused, assisted, or resulted in the
20 release of ISIS fighters, supporters, and
21 other extremists from detention; or

22 (ii) promoted conditions that support,
23 assist or have resulted or could result in a
24 strengthening of the military capabilities of
25 such fighters and extremists within Syria,

1 including the practical control over terri-
2 tory;

3 (C) a description of the extent to which
4 such strengthening of such capabilities of ISIS
5 and other extremist groups and persons could
6 increase the threat to the United States, United
7 States citizens, and United States interests,
8 both in the United States and abroad;

9 (D) a description of efforts by the Sec-
10 retary of State and other United States officials
11 to persuade the Government of Turkey to cease
12 its activities in Syria and commitments to sup-
13 port United States and multilateral efforts to
14 comprehensively defeat ISIS within Syria;

15 (E) a determination whether Turkey's pur-
16 chase and acceptance of delivery of the S-400
17 missile system from the Russian Federation
18 constitutes a "significant transaction" pursuant
19 to section 231 of the Countering America's Ad-
20 versaries Through Sanctions Act (22 U.S.C.
21 9525);

22 (F) a description of any actions by the
23 Government of Turkey to forcibly repatriate
24 Syrian refugees; and

1 (G) an assessment of whether the Govern-
2 ment of Turkey is blocking humanitarian aid
3 from reaching communities in need of assist-
4 ance in northeast Syria.

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