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2D SESSION

S. 4095

To call for accountability for the killing of innocent civilians, including 5-year-old Hind Rajab and two paramedics, in an attack in Gaza City on January 29, 2024, by Israel Defense Forces, to require the Secretary of State to report to Congress on the attack, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 12, 2026

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

A BILL

To call for accountability for the killing of innocent civilians, including 5-year-old Hind Rajab and two paramedics, in an attack in Gaza City on January 29, 2024, by Israel Defense Forces, to require the Secretary of State to report to Congress on the attack, 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 “Justice for Hind Rajab
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Since October 7, 2023, the United States
4 has provided more than \$21,700,000,000 in military
5 assistance to Israel, which has funded a majority of
6 the expenses needed by the Israel Defense Forces to
7 conduct the war in Gaza.

8 (2) According to information from the Govern-
9 ment of Israel, an estimated 10,000 people from the
10 United States were activated for the war in Gaza.

11 (3) According to reports from the Gaza Min-
12 istry of Health, more than 20,000 children have
13 been killed in Gaza since October 7, 2023.

14 (4) Since October 7, 2023, at least 1,700 health
15 workers have been killed in Gaza.

16 (5) On January 29, 2024, 5-year-old Hind
17 Rami Iyad Rajab, along with 6 members of her ex-
18 tended family, were killed in a passenger car by
19 Israel Defense Forces (referred to in this Act as
20 “IDF”) tank and machine gun fire while she and
21 her family were fleeing fighting in Gaza City.

22 (6) A forensic investigation conducted by Fo-
23 rensic Architecture discovered a total of 335 bullet
24 holes in the car in which Hind Rajab was riding.

25 (7) Two Palestine Red Crescent paramedics at-
26 tempting to rescue Hind Rajab in a marked ambu-

1 lance along an approved route were also killed by
2 Israeli tank fire as they approached the car.

3 (8) Forensic analysis determined the weapons
4 and munitions used in the attacks were consistent
5 with IDF-issued weaponry, including the M4 carbine
6 assault rifle, the FN MAG machine gun on a
7 Merkava battle tank, and 120mm M830A1 High Ex-
8 plosive Anti-Tank Multi-Purpose-Tracers, much of
9 which is provided by, or includes components from,
10 the United States.

11 (9) Forensic analysis and satellite imagery de-
12 termined that an Israeli Merkava tank, which uses
13 parts and components manufactured in the United
14 States, was in proximity to the car on the day of the
15 attack and consistent with the weapons used to kill
16 Hind Rajab and her family.

17 (10) On April 16, 2024, a Department of State
18 spokesperson said the Department would ask Israel
19 for further information about the attacks and would
20 welcome a full investigation into the matter.

21 (11) Section 620M of the Foreign Assistance
22 Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2378d; commonly known as
23 the “Leahy Law”) prohibits the Secretary of State
24 from providing assistance to any unit of a foreign
25 security force if the Secretary “has credible informa-

1 tion that such unit has committed a gross violation
2 of human rights”.

3 **SEC. 3. PROSECUTION OF WAR CRIMES.**

4 (a) REFERRAL BY SECRETARY OF STATE.—Not later
5 than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
6 the Secretary of State shall certify to the appropriate con-
7 gressional committees that if there is credible information
8 indicating the attacks on January 29, 2024, which caused
9 the deaths of Hind Rajab, members of her family, and
10 two Palestine Red Crescent paramedics, could constitute
11 war crimes and involved the use of United States-origi-
12 nals weapons or munitions, United States citizens, or IDF per-
13 sonnel trained by the United States, the Secretary will,
14 not later than 15 days after such certification, refer such
15 findings to the Attorney General for prosecution of those
16 responsible for such attacks.

17 (b) INVESTIGATION BY ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Not
18 later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this
19 Act, the Attorney General shall certify to the appropriate
20 congressional committees that the Department of Justice
21 will—

22 (1) review any referral received from the Sec-
23 retary of State regarding the Gaza City attacks of
24 January 29, 2024; and

1 (2) upon receiving such referral, initiate an in-
2 vestigation and prosecutions for war crimes in ac-
3 cordance with section 2441 of title 18, United States
4 Code, as appropriate, to the extent such actions fall
5 within the jurisdiction of the United States courts.

6 **SEC. 4. REPORT ON THE GAZA CITY ATTACKS ON JANUARY**
7 **29, 2024.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after the
9 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State,
10 in consultation with the Attorney General and the Sec-
11 retary of Defense, shall submit a report to the appropriate
12 congressional committees regarding the Gaza City attacks
13 of January 29, 2024, as described in section 2.

14 (b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted pursuant to
15 subsection (a) shall include—

16 (1) all the information available to the United
17 States Government regarding—

18 (A) the identity of the IDF or other Israeli
19 security force units that were involved in the at-
20 tacks referred to in subsection (a);

21 (B) the underlying operational motivation
22 for the attacks;

23 (C) any actions taken by the Government
24 of Israel to investigate the attacks and to hold

1 accountable the individuals who were respon-
2 sible for the attacks;

3 (D) whether any of the soldiers involved in
4 the attacks were United States citizens;

5 (E) whether the IDF used any weapons or
6 ammunition in the attacks that were provided
7 by the United States; and

8 (F) whether any of the IDF personnel in-
9 volved in the attacks were trained by the United
10 States;

11 (2) all actions taken by the Department of
12 State to submit inquiries or requests for information
13 to the Government of Israel regarding the attacks
14 pursuant to the Department's formal acknowledg-
15 ment of the attacks and commitment to seek such
16 information;

17 (3) all actions by the Department of State to
18 request information from the intelligence community
19 (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act
20 of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)) and other components of
21 the United States Government regarding the at-
22 tacks;

23 (4) the extent to which the Secretary of State
24 and the Secretary of Defense initiated an inquiry or
25 investigation to determine if the attacks constituted

1 a “gross violation of human rights” for purposes of
2 mandatory compliance with section 620M of the
3 Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2378d)
4 and section 362 of title 10, United States Code, re-
5 spectively (commonly known as the “Leahy Laws”);

6 (5) the findings of any other Department of
7 State reviews, policy recommendations, or internal
8 investigations related to the attack, including actions
9 taken under the Department of State’s Civilian
10 Harm Incident Response Guidance; and

11 (6) whether the Department of Justice—

12 (A) has received information regarding the
13 attacks;

14 (B) has relayed such information to the
15 Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Sec-
16 tion; and

17 (C) has established a record of such docu-
18 ments and the receipt of such information.

19 **SEC. 5. COMPENSATION.**

20 It is the sense of Congress that—

21 (1) the Government of Israel should provide ac-
22 knowledgment, apology, and compensation to the
23 families of Hind Rajab and of the paramedics who
24 were killed in the attacks on January 29, 2024, in

1 consideration of the input and wishes of the families;
2 and

3 (2) the Department of State should also provide
4 compensation to such families if it is determined
5 that United States-origin weapons or munitions were
6 involved in the attacks.

7 **SEC. 6. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

8 It shall be the policy of the United States—

9 (1) to collect, analyze, and preserve evidence
10 and information relating to possible war crimes and
11 atrocities committed during the Israel-Hamas war
12 that began on October 7, 2023, for use in domestic,
13 foreign, and international courts and tribunals pro-
14 secuting those responsible for such crimes, including
15 evidence and information relating to the attacks on
16 January 29, 2024, which caused the deaths of Hind
17 Rajab, members of her family, and two Palestine
18 Red Crescent paramedics;

19 (2) to continue efforts to identify, deter, and
20 pursue accountability for war crimes and other
21 atrocities committed in conflicts around the world,
22 including through the investigation and prosecution
23 of crimes by the Department of Justice under sec-
24 tion 2441 of title 18, United States Code (commonly
25 known as the “War Crimes Act of 1996”);

1 (3) to consider the willful killing of protected
2 persons, including civilians and medical personnel,
3 as grave breaches amounting to war crimes and, if
4 systemic, crimes against humanity;

5 (4) to hold perpetrators of war crimes and
6 crimes against humanity accountable for their
7 crimes;

8 (5) to uphold the Convention (IV) relative to
9 the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War,
10 done at Geneva August 12, 1949 (commonly re-
11 ferred to as the “Fourth Geneva Convention”), to
12 which the United States is party and has ratified,
13 including article 3, which states that persons taking
14 no active part in hostilities shall be treated hu-
15 manely and should not be subject to violence to life
16 and person;

17 (6) to uphold article 35 of the Convention for
18 the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded
19 and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field, done at Ge-
20 neva August 12, 1949, to which the United States
21 is a party and has ratified, requires transports of
22 wounded and sick or of medical equipment to be re-
23 spected and protected in the same way as mobile
24 medical units; and

1 (7) for the Attorney General, with input from
2 the heads of other Federal agencies, as appropriate,
3 to investigate any credible allegations of war crimes
4 committed by United States citizens in Gaza, in ac-
5 cordance with section 2441 of title 18, United States
6 Code.

7 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

9 (1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-**
10 **TEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional com-
11 mittees” means—

12 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
13 the Senate;

14 (B) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
15 Senate;

16 (C) the Committee on Armed Services of
17 the Senate;

18 (D) the Select Committee on Intelligence
19 of the Senate;

20 (E) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
21 the House of Representatives;

22 (F) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
23 House of Representatives;

24 (G) the Committee on Armed Services of
25 the House of Representatives; and

1 (H) the Permanent Select Committee on
2 Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

3 (2) ATROCITIES.—The term “atrocities” has
4 the meaning given such term in section 6(2) of the
5 Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act
6 of 2018 (Public Law 115–441; 22 U.S.C. 2656
7 note).

8 (3) WAR CRIME.—The term “war crime” has
9 the meaning given such term in section 2441(c) of
10 title 18, United States Code.

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