

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4270

To provide for the establishment of a binational rapid response protocol for serious crimes committed against United States citizens in Mexico, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 26, 2026

Mr. KELLY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of a binational rapid response protocol for serious crimes committed against United States citizens in Mexico, 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 “Nicholas Douglas
5 Quets United States-Mexico Rapid Response for Victims
6 of Crime Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) On October 18, 2024, while traveling in the
2 Mexican state of Sonora near Puerto Peñasco, Nich-
3 olas Quets was targeted by armed criminals associ-
4 ated with the Sinaloa Cartel and the 31-year-old
5 American was tragically shot and killed in a violent
6 attack.

7 (2) The brutal murder of Nicholas Quets re-
8 flects the ongoing threat posed by transnational
9 criminal organizations and cartel violence in the re-
10 gion.

11 (3) The violence perpetrated by drug cartels
12 and other criminal organizations endangers innocent
13 civilians, undermines the rule of law, and threatens
14 the safety of United States citizens traveling abroad.

15 (4) Binational coordination in investigations
16 like that of Nicholas Quets' death can often be de-
17 layed or incomplete, which may deny the administra-
18 tion of justice for victims and their families.

19 (5) Each year, millions of United States citi-
20 zens travel to Mexico for tourism, work, and family
21 purposes.

22 (6) In certain cases involving serious crimes, in-
23 cluding homicide, kidnapping, and organized crimi-
24 nal violence, delays or gaps in coordination between

1 authorities may hinder investigations and the deliv-
2 ery of justice for victims and their families.

3 (7) Enhanced binational coordination, commu-
4 nication, and investigative cooperation is essential to
5 ensure effective responses to serious crimes involving
6 United States citizens in Mexico.

7 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

8 It is the sense of Congress that a robust, binational
9 rapid response protocol is necessary to ensure efficient
10 communication and coordination between United States
11 and Mexican authorities when responding to serious
12 crimes involving United States citizens in Mexico.

13 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

14 In this Act:

15 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
16 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
17 mittees” means—

18 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
19 the Senate;

20 (B) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
21 Senate;

22 (C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
23 the House of Representatives; and

24 (D) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
25 House of Representatives.

1 (2) SERIOUS CRIMES.—The term “serious
2 crimes” includes—

3 (A) homicides and suspicious deaths;

4 (B) kidnappings and abductions;

5 (C) disappearances;

6 (D) violent crimes involving, or suspected
7 to be involving, organized criminal groups or
8 cartels; and

9 (E) other violent crimes designated by the
10 Secretary of State.

11 **SEC. 5. BINATIONAL RAPID RESPONSE PROTOCOL.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in coordi-
13 nation with the Attorney General, shall engage with the
14 Government of Mexico to negotiate and establish a bina-
15 tional rapid response protocol for serious crimes com-
16 mitted against United States citizens in Mexico (referred
17 to in this section as the “Protocol”).

18 (b) PURPOSE.—The Protocol shall aim to ensure
19 timely coordination between United States and Mexican
20 authorities in responding to and investigating serious
21 crimes committed against United States citizens in Mex-
22 ico.

23 (c) RECOMMENDED ELEMENTS.—In negotiating the
24 Protocol, the Secretary of State shall seek to include pro-
25 cedures that provide—

1 (1) mechanisms for the prompt notification of
2 relevant United States and Mexican authorities
3 when a serious crime involving a United States cit-
4 izen occurs;

5 (2) secure and reliable communication channels
6 between designated law enforcement and diplomatic
7 authorities in both countries;

8 (3) procedures to ensure the timely securing of
9 crime scenes and the protection of relevant physical
10 evidence;

11 (4) agreed-upon standards and procedures for
12 preserving and documenting evidence in a manner
13 that supports potential prosecutions in either coun-
14 try's jurisdiction;

15 (5) procedures to facilitate the timely sharing of
16 investigative leads, intelligence, and forensic infor-
17 mation between United States and Mexican authori-
18 ties, consistent with the laws of each country;

19 (6) the designation of appropriate points of con-
20 tact within the Government of Mexico and proce-
21 dures to facilitate requests for international extra-
22 dition and timely coordination for extradition to
23 United States;

24 (7) the designation of appropriate points of con-
25 tact within relevant United States and Mexican

1 agencies responsible for coordinating responses to in-
2 cidents covered by the Protocol;

3 (8) the designation of a point of contact within
4 the United States Government responsible for com-
5 municating with the victim or the victim's family
6 and providing timely updates regarding investigative
7 developments and available assistance;

8 (9) procedures for coordination between United
9 States consular officials and Mexican authorities re-
10 garding support for victims and their families; and

11 (10) opportunities for joint training, planning,
12 or exercises to ensure effective implementation of the
13 Protocol.

14 **SEC. 6. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

15 (a) **PROGRESS REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually
17 thereafter until the binational rapid response protocol de-
18 scribed in section 5 is established, the Secretary of State
19 shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional
20 committees that describes—

21 (1) the progress made toward negotiating such
22 protocol;

23 (2) the status of cooperation with the Govern-
24 ment of Mexico relating to crimes against United
25 States citizens while they are in Mexico; and

1 (3) any additional legislative or diplomatic steps
2 the Secretary determines would improve coordination
3 and accountability in such cases.

4 (b) IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.—Not later than 180
5 days after the establishment of the binational rapid re-
6 sponse protocol described in section 5, and annually there-
7 after, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the
8 appropriate congressional committees that describes—

9 (1) the status of the implementation of such
10 protocol;

11 (2) actions taken by United States and Mexican
12 authorities under the protocol;

13 (3) the extent to which the protocol has im-
14 proved coordination in covered cases; and

15 (4) any recommendations for improving the
16 protocol.

17 **SEC. 7. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.**

18 Nothing in this Act may be construed—

19 (1) to limit the sovereignty of the United States
20 or of Mexico;

21 (2) to require the Government of Mexico to
22 adopt investigative procedures inconsistent with ex-
23 isting Mexican law; or

- 1 (3) to alter the existing authorities of United
- 2 States law enforcement or consular officials.

