

(b) Participation

The President shall direct the heads of each of the following executive departments, agencies, and offices to make available personnel to participate in the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell:

- (1) The Department of State.
- (2) The Department of the Treasury.
- (3) The Department of Defense.
- (4) The Department of Justice.
- (5) The Office of the Director of National Intelligence.
- (6) The Federal Bureau of Investigation.
- (7) The Central Intelligence Agency.
- (8) Other agencies as the President, from time to time, may designate.

(c) Personnel

The Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell shall include—

(1) a Director, who shall be a full-time senior officer or employee of the United States Government;

(2) a Family Engagement Coordinator who shall—

(A) work to ensure that all interactions by executive branch officials with a hostage's family occur in a coordinated fashion and that the family receives consistent and accurate information from the United States Government; and

(B) if directed, perform the same function as set out in subparagraph (A) with regard to the family of a United States national who is unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad; and

(3) other officers and employees as deemed appropriate by the President.

(d) Duties

The Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell shall—

(1) coordinate efforts by participating agencies to ensure that all relevant information, expertise, and resources are brought to bear to secure the safe recovery of United States nationals held hostage abroad;

(2) if directed, coordinate the United States Government's response to other hostage-takings occurring abroad in which the United States has a national interest;

(3) if directed, coordinate or assist the United States Government's response to help secure the release of United States nationals unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad; and

(4) pursuant to policy guidance coordinated through the National Security Council—

(A) identify and recommend hostage recovery options and strategies to the President through the National Security Council or the Deputies Committee of the National Security Council;

(B) coordinate efforts by participating agencies to ensure that information regarding hostage events, including potential recovery options and engagements with families and external actors (including foreign governments), is appropriately shared within the United States Government to facilitate a coordinated response to a hostage-taking;

(C) assess and track all hostage-takings of United States nationals abroad and provide

regular reports to the President and Congress on the status of such cases and any measures being taken toward the hostages' safe recovery;

(D) provide a forum for intelligence sharing and, with the support of the Director of National Intelligence, coordinate the declassification of relevant information;

(E) coordinate efforts by participating agencies to provide appropriate support and assistance to hostages and their families in a coordinated and consistent manner and to provide families with timely information regarding significant events in their cases;

(F) make recommendations to agencies in order to reduce the likelihood of United States nationals' being taken hostage abroad and enhance United States Government preparation to maximize the probability of a favorable outcome following a hostage-taking; and

(G) coordinate with agencies regarding congressional, media, and other public inquiries pertaining to hostage events.

(e) Administration

The Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell shall be located within the Federal Bureau of Investigation for administrative purposes.

(Pub. L. 116-260, div. FF, title III, §304, Dec. 27, 2020, 134 Stat. 3094.)

§ 1741c. Hostage Response Group**(a) Establishment**

The President shall establish a Hostage Response Group, chaired by a designated member of the National Security Council or the Deputies Committee of the National Security Council, to be convened on a regular basis, to further the safe recovery of United States nationals held hostage abroad or unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad, and to be tasked with coordinating the United States Government response to other hostage-takings occurring abroad in which the United States has a national interest.

(b) Membership

The regular members of the Hostage Response Group shall include the Director of the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell, the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell's Family Engagement Coordinator, the Special Envoy appointed pursuant to section 1741a of this title, and representatives from the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Central Intelligence Agency, and other agencies as the President, from time to time, may designate.

(c) Duties

The Hostage Recovery Group shall—

(1) identify and recommend hostage recovery options and strategies to the President through the National Security Council;

(2) coordinate the development and implementation of United States hostage recovery policies, strategies, and procedures;

(3) receive regular updates from the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell and the Special Envoy for Hostage Affairs on the status of United

States nationals being held hostage or unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad and measures being taken to effect safe recoveries;

(4) coordinate the provision of policy guidance to the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell, including reviewing recovery options proposed by the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell and working to resolve disputes within the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell;

(5) as appropriate, direct the use of resources at the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell to coordinate or assist in the safe recovery of United States nationals unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad; and

(6) as appropriate, direct the use of resources at the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell to coordinate the United States Government response to other hostage-takings occurring abroad in which the United States has a national interest.

(d) Meetings

The Hostage Response Group shall meet regularly.

(e) Reporting

The Hostage Response Group shall regularly provide recommendations on hostage recovery options and strategies to the National Security Council.

(Pub. L. 116-260, div. FF, title III, § 305, Dec. 27, 2020, 134 Stat. 3095.)

§ 1741c-1. Report on strategies for reducing likelihood of United States nationals being unlawfully or wrongfully detained or taken hostage

Not later than 60 days after December 23, 2024, the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, in coordination with the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell, the Hostage Response Group, and relevant agencies, as appropriate, shall submit to the President and Congress a classified report that identifies and recommends options and strategies to reduce the likelihood of United States nationals being unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad or taken hostage.

(Pub. L. 116-260, div. FF, title III, § 305A, as added Pub. L. 118-159, div. G, title LXXVII, § 7702, Dec. 23, 2024, 138 Stat. 2553.)

§ 1741c-2. Coordination with transportation authorities and industry on Department of State travel advisories

(a) Coordination with the Department of Homeland Security

(1) In general

The Secretary of State shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security and representatives of any other Federal agency determined necessary, and in consultation with the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs and the Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs, develop messaging and informational guidance to be delivered at all United States international airports and on relevant United States Government websites warning United States nationals of the risks of wrongful or unlawful detention or hostage-taking in covered countries.

(2) Messaging and guidance

The messaging and guidance described under paragraph (1) may include—

(A) posters, brochures, and other informational materials;

(B) web banners or other warnings to be displayed on relevant United States Government websites and webpages;

(C) verbal warnings at United States international airports to United States nationals whose destinations, to the extent they are discernable, are covered countries; and

(D) other methods deemed appropriate by the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security and representatives of any other Federal agency determined necessary.

(b) Department of State coordination with United States airlines

The Secretary of State shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security and representatives of any other Federal agency determined necessary, and in consultation with the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs and Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Consular Affairs, work with United States airlines to provide warnings about the risk of wrongful or unlawful detention and hostage-taking to United States nationals booking travel through their airlines to a covered country.

(c) Report

Not later than one year after December 23, 2024, the Secretary of State shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security and representatives of any other Federal agency determined necessary, submit to Congress a report detailing—

(1) the additional steps taken to warn United States nationals of the risks of wrongful or unlawful detention and hostage-taking abroad, including those described in this section;

(2) efforts to improve the visibility and expand the reach of Department of State travel advisories concerning the risks to United States nationals of wrongful or unlawful detention and hostage-taking abroad; and

(3) additional recommendations on steps the United States Government might take to improve the awareness of United States nationals of the risk of wrongful or unlawful detention and hostage-taking abroad.

(d) Covered country defined

In this section, the term “covered country” means a country for which a Department of State travel advisory contains either the “K—Kidnapping or Hostage Taking” or “D—Wrongful Detention” Risk Indicators.

(Pub. L. 116-260, div. FF, title III, § 305B, as added Pub. L. 118-159, div. G, title LXXVII, § 7705, Dec. 23, 2024, 138 Stat. 2554.)

§ 1741d. Authorization of imposition of sanctions

(a) In general

The President may impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to any foreign person the President determines, based on credible evidence—

(1) is responsible for or is complicit in, or responsible for ordering, controlling, or other-