

movements located in nondemocratic countries that aspire to live in freedom and establish full democracy in such countries; and

(B) providing political, economic, and other support to foreign countries and individuals, nongovernmental organizations, and movements that are willingly undertaking a transition to democracy; and

(6) to strengthen cooperation with other democratic countries in order to better promote and defend shared values and ideals.

(Pub. L. 110-53, title XXI, §2103, Aug. 3, 2007, 121 Stat. 527.)

§ 8203. Definitions

In this chapter:

(1) Annual Report on Advancing Freedom and Democracy

The term “Annual Report on Advancing Freedom and Democracy” refers to the annual report submitted to Congress by the Department of State pursuant to section 665(c) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-228; 22 U.S.C. 2151n note), in which the Department reports on actions taken by the United States Government to encourage respect for human rights and democracy.

(2) Appropriate congressional committees

The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(3) Assistant Secretary

The term “Assistant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.

(4) Community of Democracies and Community

The terms “Community of Democracies” and “Community” mean the association of democratic countries committed to the global promotion of democratic principles, practices, and values, which held its First Ministerial Conference in Warsaw, Poland, in June 2000.

(5) Department

The term “Department” means the Department of State.

(6) Nondemocratic country or democratic transition country

The term “nondemocratic country” or “democratic transition country” shall include any country which is not governed by a fully functioning democratic form of government, as determined by the Secretary, taking into account the general consensus regarding the status of civil and political rights in a country by major nongovernmental organizations that conduct assessments of such conditions in countries and whether the country exhibits the following characteristics:

(A) All citizens of such country have the right to, and are not restricted in practice from, fully and freely participating in the political life of such country.

(B) The national legislative body of such country and, if directly elected, the head of government of such country, are chosen by free, fair, open, and periodic elections, by universal and equal suffrage, and by secret ballot.

(C) More than one political party in such country has candidates who seek elected office at the national level and such parties are not restricted in their political activities or their process for selecting such candidates, except for reasonable administrative requirements commonly applied in countries categorized as fully democratic.

(D) All citizens in such country have a right to, and are not restricted in practice from, fully exercising such fundamental freedoms as the freedom of expression, conscience, and peaceful assembly and association, and such country has a free, independent, and pluralistic media.

(E) The current government of such country did not come to power in a manner contrary to the rule of law.

(F) Such country possesses an independent judiciary and the government of such country generally respects the rule of law.

(G) Such country does not violate other core principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, United Nations Commission on Human Rights Resolution 1499/57 (entitled “Promotion of the Right to Democracy”), and the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 55/96 (entitled “Promoting and consolidating democracy”).

(H) As applicable, whether the country has scored favorably on the political, civil liberties, corruption, and rule of law indicators used to determine eligibility for financial assistance disbursed from the Millennium Challenge Account.

(7) Secretary

The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of State.

(Pub. L. 110-53, title XXI, §2104, Aug. 3, 2007, 121 Stat. 527.)

SUBCHAPTER I—ACTIVITIES TO ENHANCE THE PROMOTION OF DEMOCRACY

§ 8211. Democracy promotion at the Department of State

(a) Democracy Liaison Officers

(1) In general

The Secretary of State shall establish and staff Democracy Liaison Officer positions. Democracy Liaison Officers shall serve under the supervision of the Assistant Secretary. Democracy Liaison Officers may be assigned to the following posts:

(A) United States missions to, or liaisons with, regional and multilateral organizations, including the United States missions to the European Union, African Union, Organization of American States, and any other appropriate regional organization, the Orga-

nization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the United Nations and its relevant specialized agencies, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

(B) Regional public diplomacy centers of the Department of State.

(C) United States combatant commands.

(D) Other posts as designated by the Secretary.

(2) Responsibilities

Each Democracy Liaison Officer should—

(A) provide expertise on effective approaches to promote and build democracy;

(B) assist in formulating and implementing strategies for transitions to democracy; and

(C) carry out such other responsibilities as the Secretary or the Assistant Secretary may assign.

(3) New positions

To the fullest extent practicable, taking into consideration amounts appropriated to carry out this subsection and personnel available for assignment to the positions described in paragraph (1), the Democracy Liaison Officer positions established under subsection (a) shall be new positions that are in addition to existing positions with responsibility for other human rights and democracy related issues and programs, including positions with responsibility for labor issues.

(4) Relationship to other authorities

Nothing in this subsection may be construed as altering any authority or responsibility of a chief of mission or other employee of a diplomatic mission of the United States provided under any other provision of law, including any authority or responsibility for the development or implementation of strategies to promote democracy.

(b) Office related to democratic movements and transitions

(1) Establishment

There shall be identified within the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department at least one office that shall be responsible for working with democratic movements and facilitating the transition to full democracy of nondemocratic countries and democratic transition countries.

(2) Responsibilities

The Assistant Secretary shall, including by acting through the office or offices identified pursuant to paragraph (1)—

(A) provide support for Democratic Liaison Officers established under subsection (a);

(B) develop relations with, consult with, and provide assistance to nongovernmental organizations, individuals, and movements that are committed to the peaceful promotion of democracy and fundamental rights and freedoms, including fostering relationships with the United States Government and the governments of other democratic countries; and

(C) assist officers and employees of regional bureaus of the Department to develop

strategies and programs to promote peaceful change in nondemocratic countries and democratic transition countries.

(3) Liaison

Within the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, the Assistant Secretary shall identify officers or employees who have expertise in and shall be responsible for working with nongovernmental organizations, individuals, and movements that develop relations with, consult with, and provide assistance to nongovernmental organizations, individuals, and movements in foreign countries that are committed to the peaceful promotion of democracy and fundamental rights and freedoms.

(c) Actions by chiefs of mission

Each chief of mission in each nondemocratic country or democratic transition country should—

(1) develop, as part of annual program planning, a strategy to promote democratic principles, practices, and values in each such foreign country and to provide support, as appropriate, to nongovernmental organizations, individuals, and movements in each such country that are committed to democratic principles, practices, and values, such as by—

(A) consulting and coordinating with and providing support to such nongovernmental organizations, individuals, and movements regarding the promotion of democracy;

(B) issuing public condemnations of violations of internationally recognized human rights, including violations of religious freedom, and visiting local landmarks and other local sites associated with nonviolent protest in support of democracy and freedom from oppression; and

(C) holding periodic meetings with such nongovernmental organizations, individuals, and movements to discuss democracy and political, social, and economic freedoms;

(2) hold ongoing discussions with the leaders of each such nondemocratic country or democratic transition country regarding progress toward a democratic system of governance and the development of political, social, and economic freedoms and respect for human rights, including freedom of religion or belief, in such country; and

(3) conduct meetings with civil society, interviews with media that can directly reach citizens of each such country, and discussions with students and young people of each such country regarding progress toward a democratic system of governance and the development of political, social, and economic freedoms in each such country.

(d) Recruitment

The Secretary should seek to increase the proportion of members of the Foreign Service who serve in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.

(e) Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

(Pub. L. 110-53, title XXI, §2111, Aug. 3, 2007, 121 Stat. 529.)

§ 8212. Democracy Fellowship Program

(a) Requirement for Program

The Secretary shall establish a Democracy Fellowship Program to enable officers of the Department to gain an additional perspective on democracy promotion in foreign countries by working on democracy issues in appropriate congressional offices or congressional committees with oversight over the subject matter of this chapter, including the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and international or nongovernmental organizations involved in democracy promotion.

(b) Selection and placement

The Assistant Secretary shall play a central role in the selection of Democracy Fellows and facilitate their placement in appropriate congressional offices, congressional committees, international organizations, and nongovernmental organizations.

(Pub. L. 110-53, title XXI, §2112, Aug. 3, 2007, 121 Stat. 531.)

§ 8213. Investigations of violations of international humanitarian law

(a) In general

The President, with the assistance of the Secretary, the Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs, and the Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues, shall collect information regarding incidents that may constitute crimes against humanity, genocide, slavery, or other violations of international humanitarian law.

(b) Accountability

The President shall consider what actions can be taken to ensure that any government of a country or the leaders or senior officials of such government who are responsible for crimes against humanity, genocide, slavery, or other violations of international humanitarian law identified under subsection (a) are brought to account for such crimes in an appropriately constituted tribunal.

(Pub. L. 110-53, title XXI, §2113, Aug. 3, 2007, 121 Stat. 531.)

SUBCHAPTER II—STRATEGIES AND REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE PROMOTION OF DEMOCRACY

§ 8221. Strategies, priorities, and annual report

(a) Expansion of country-specific strategies to promote democracy

(1) Commendation

Congress commends the Secretary for the ongoing work by the Department to develop country-specific strategies for promoting democracy.

(2) Expansion

The Secretary shall expand the development of such strategies to all nondemocratic countries and democratic transition countries.

(3) Briefings

The Secretary shall keep the appropriate congressional committees fully and currently informed as such strategies are developed.

(b) to (d) Omitted or repealed

(Pub. L. 110-53, title XXI, §2121, Aug. 3, 2007, 121 Stat. 531; Pub. L. 118-31, div. F, title LXVII, §6707(b)(3), Dec. 22, 2023, 137 Stat. 1018.)

Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

Section is comprised of section 2121 of Pub. L. 110-53. Subsecs. (b) and (d) of section 2121 of Pub. L. 110-53 amended section 665(c) of Pub. L. 107-228, which is set out as a note under section 2151n of this title. Subsec. (c) of section 2121 of Pub. L. 110-53 was repealed by Pub. L. 118-31, see 2023 Amendment note below.

AMENDMENTS

2023—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 118-31 struck out subsec. (c). Text read as follows: “The Annual Report on Advancing Freedom and Democracy shall include, as appropriate—

“(1) United States priorities for the promotion of democracy and the protection of human rights for each nondemocratic country and democratic transition country, developed in consultation with relevant parties in such countries; and

“(2) specific actions and activities of chiefs of missions and other United States officials to promote democracy and protect human rights in each such country.”

§ 8222. Translation of human rights reports

(a) In general

The Secretary shall continue to expand the timely translation of the applicable parts of the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices required under sections 2151n(d) and 2304(b) of this title, the Annual Report on International Religious Freedom required under section 6412(b) of this title, the Trafficking in Persons Report required under section 7107(b) of this title, and any separate report on democracy and human rights policy submitted in accordance with section 665(c) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-228; 22 U.S.C. 2151n note) into the principal languages of as many countries as possible, with particular emphasis on nondemocratic countries, democratic transition countries, and countries in which extrajudicial killings, torture, or other serious violations of human rights have occurred.

(b) Report

(1) Requirement

Not later than April 1, 2008, and annually thereafter through 2010, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report describing any translations of the reports specified in subsection (a) for the preceding year, including which of such reports have been translated into which principal languages and the countries in which such translations have been distributed by posting on a relevant website or elsewhere.

(2) Form

The report required under paragraph (1) may be included in any separate report on democ-