

Iran and the development of Iran's indigenous capabilities to disrupt and monitor information and communications in Iran.

(Pub. L. 112-158, title IV, §412, Aug. 10, 2012, 126 Stat. 1255.)

§ 8753. Expedited consideration of requests for authorization of certain human rights-, humanitarian-, and democracy-related activities with respect to Iran

(a) Requirement

The Office of Foreign Assets Control, in consultation with the Department of State, shall establish an expedited process for the consideration of complete requests for authorization to engage in human rights-, humanitarian-, or democracy-related activities relating to Iran that are submitted by—

- (1) entities receiving funds from the Department of State to engage in the proposed activity;
- (2) the Broadcasting Board of Governors; and
- (3) other appropriate agencies of the United States Government.

(b) Procedures

Requests for authorization under subsection (a) shall be submitted to the Office of Foreign Assets Control in conformance with the Office's regulations, including section 501.801 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations (commonly known as the Reporting, Procedures and Penalties Regulations). Applicants shall fully disclose the parties to the transactions as well as describe the activities to be undertaken. License applications involving the exportation or reexportation of goods, technology, or software to Iran shall include a copy of an official Commodity Classification issued by the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Industry and Security, as part of the license application.

(c) Foreign policy review

The Department of State shall complete a foreign policy review of a request for authorization under subsection (a) not later than 30 days after the request is referred to the Department by the Office of Foreign Assets Control.

(d) License determinations

License determinations for complete requests for authorization under subsection (a) shall be made not later than 90 days after receipt by the Office of Foreign Assets Control, with the following exceptions:

- (1) Any requests involving the exportation or reexportation to Iran of goods, technology, or software listed on the Commerce Control List maintained pursuant to part 774 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, shall be processed in a manner consistent with the Iran-Iraq Arms Non-Proliferation Act of 1992 (title XVI of Public Law 102-484) and other applicable provisions of law.
- (2) Any other requests presenting unusual or extraordinary circumstances.

(e) Regulations

The Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe such regulations as are appropriate to carry out this section.

(Pub. L. 112-158, title IV, §413, Aug. 10, 2012, 126 Stat. 1256.)

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Iran-Iraq Arms Non-Proliferation Act of 1992, referred to in subsec. (d)(1), is title XVI of div. A of Pub. L. 102-484, Oct. 23, 1992, 106 Stat. 2571, which is set out as a note under section 1701 of Title 50, War and National Defense.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

CHANGE OF NAME

Broadcasting Board of Governors renamed United States Agency for Global Media pursuant to section 6204(a)(21) of this title. The renaming was effectuated by notice to congressional appropriations committees dated May 24, 2018, and became effective Aug. 22, 2018.

§ 8754. Comprehensive strategy to promote Internet freedom and access to information in Iran

Not later than 90 days after August 10, 2012, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the heads of other Federal agencies, as appropriate, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive strategy to—

- (1) assist the people of Iran to produce, access, and share information freely and safely via the Internet, including in Farsi and regional languages;
- (2) support the development of counter-censorship technologies that enable the citizens of Iran to undertake Internet activities without interference from the Government of Iran;
- (3) increase the capabilities and availability of secure mobile and other communications through connective technology among human rights and democracy activists in Iran;
- (4) provide resources for digital safety training for media and academic and civil society organizations in Iran;
- (5) provide accurate and substantive Internet content in local languages in Iran;
- (6) increase emergency resources for the most vulnerable human rights advocates seeking to organize, share information, and support human rights in Iran;
- (7) expand surrogate radio, television, live stream, and social network communications inside Iran, including—

(A) by expanding Voice of America's Persian News Network and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Radio Farda to provide hourly live news update programming and breaking news coverage capability 24 hours a day and 7 days a week; and

(B) by assisting telecommunications and software companies that are United States persons to comply with the export licensing requirements of the United States for the purpose of expanding such communications inside Iran;

(8) expand activities to safely assist and train human rights, civil society, and democracy activists in Iran to operate effectively and securely;

(9) identify and utilize all available resources to overcome attempts by the Govern-

ment of Iran to jam or otherwise deny international satellite broadcasting signals;

(10) expand worldwide United States embassy and consulate programming for and outreach to Iranian dissident communities;

(11) expand access to proxy servers for democracy activists in Iran; and

(12) discourage telecommunications and software companies from facilitating Internet censorship by the Government of Iran.

(Pub. L. 112-158, title IV, § 414, Aug. 10, 2012, 126 Stat. 1256.)

§ 8754a. Strategy and grant program to promote internet freedom in Iran

(a) Strategy

(1) In general

Not later than 90 days after December 23, 2024, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other Federal agencies, as appropriate, shall develop a strategy to support and enhance access to information by civil society in Iran.

(2) Elements

The strategy required in subparagraph (A)¹ shall include the following elements:

(A) An evaluation of the use of virtual private networks by civil society in Iran.

(B) An assessment of the level of internet access for Iranians who do not use virtual private networks, including levels of reliable connectivity, bandwidth, and coverage, as well as censorship, surveillance, and other limitations on internet access.

(C) A strategy to increase the accessibility of virtual private networks in Iran.

(D) An assessment of alternatives to virtual private networks that are capable of circumventing restrictions on open internet access imposed by the Government of Iran.

(E) An assessment of how companies providing Iranian civilians with technology and other tools to overcome technical and political obstacles are able to access the open internet.

(F) An assessment of the ability of the Government of Iran to cut off all access to the internet in Iran.

(G) A strategy to circumvent internet blackouts for Iranian civil society.

(3) Initial update

Not later than 120 days after December 23, 2024, the Secretary, in consultation with the heads of other Federal agencies, as appropriate, shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate an updated version of the strategy required in paragraph (1).

(4) Periodic review and updates

The Secretary, in consultation with the heads of other Federal agencies, as appropriate, shall—

(A) not less frequently than twice each year, review the strategy required in paragraph (1); and

(B) if the results of such review indicate that modifications to such strategy are required to more effectively promote internet freedom and access to information for civil society in Iran, submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate an updated version of such strategy.

(5) Form

Each strategy required to be submitted under this subsection shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(b) Grant program and contract authority

(1) In general

The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and the President of the Open Technology Fund, as appropriate, may award grants and enter into contracts to private organizations to support and develop programs in Iran that promote or expand—

(A) an open, interoperable, reliable, and secure internet; and

(B) the online exercise of internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms of civil society in Iran.

(2) Program goals

The goal of each program developed with a grant funds awarded pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be to—

(A) support unrestricted access to the internet in Iran;

(B) increase the availability of internet freedom tools to overcome technical and political obstacles to internet access in Iran;

(C) increase the distribution of such technologies and tools throughout Iran;

(D) conduct research on repressive tactics that undermine internet freedom in Iran;

(E) ensure that information regarding digital safety is available to civil society in Iran; or

(F) engage private industry, including e-commerce firms and social networking companies, regarding the importance of preserving unrestricted internet access in Iran.

(3) Grant award requirements

The Secretary shall award grants authorized in paragraph (1) to recipients through an evidence-based process.

(4) Security audits

The Secretary shall conduct a comprehensive security audit of each new technology developed using grant funds distributed pursuant to paragraph (1) to ensure that each such technology is secure and has not been compromised in a manner detrimental to—

(A) the interests of the United States; or

(B) an individual or organization benefiting from a program supported by such funding.

(5) Authorization of appropriations

(A) In general

There is authorized to be appropriated for the Open Technology Fund established under

¹ So in original. Probably should be “paragraph (1)”.