

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 31

To require certain additional actions in connection with the national emergency with respect to Syria, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2019

Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. McCAUL, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. YOHIO, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. HILL of Arkansas, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. MENG, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. ROONEY of Florida, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. HURD of Texas, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. KEATING, Ms. FRANKEL, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. SIRES, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Ms. ESHOO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

---

## A BILL

To require certain additional actions in connection with the national emergency with respect to Syria, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Caesar Syria Civilian  
3 Protection Act of 2019”.

4 **TITLE I—ADDITIONAL ACTIONS**  
5 **IN CONNECTION WITH THE**  
6 **NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH**  
7 **RESPECT TO SYRIA**

8 **SEC. 101. MEASURES WITH RESPECT TO CENTRAL BANK OF**  
9 **SYRIA.**

10       (a) DETERMINATION REGARDING CENTRAL BANK OF  
11 SYRIA.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the en-  
12 actment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall  
13 determine, under section 5318A of title 31, United States  
14 Code, whether reasonable grounds exist for concluding  
15 that the Central Bank of Syria is a financial institution  
16 of primary money laundering concern.

17       (b) ENHANCED DUE DILIGENCE AND REPORTING  
18 REQUIREMENTS.—If the Secretary of the Treasury deter-  
19 mines under subsection (a) that reasonable grounds exist  
20 for concluding that the Central Bank of Syria is a finan-  
21 cial institution of primary money laundering concern, the  
22 Secretary, in consultation with the Federal functional reg-  
23 ulators (as defined in section 509 of the Gramm-Leach-  
24 Bliley Act (15 U.S.C. 6809)), shall impose one or more  
25 of the special measures described in section 5318A(b) of

1 title 31, United States Code, with respect to the Central  
2 Bank of Syria.

3 (c) REPORT REQUIRED.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after  
5 making a determination under subsection (a) as to  
6 whether or not the Central Bank of Syria is a finan-  
7 cial institution of primary money laundering con-  
8 cern, the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit to  
9 the appropriate congressional committees a report  
10 that includes the reasons for the determination.

11 (2) FORM.—A report required by paragraph (1)  
12 shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may in-  
13 clude a classified annex.

14 (3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
15 TEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “ap-  
16 propriate congressional committees” means—

17 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the  
18 Committee on Financial Services, and the Com-  
19 mittee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-  
20 resentatives; and

21 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations,  
22 the Committee on Banking, Housing, and  
23 Urban Affairs, and the Committee on Appro-  
24 priations of the Senate.

1 **SEC. 102. SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN PER-**  
2 **SONS THAT ENGAGE IN CERTAIN TRANS-**  
3 **ACTIONS.**

4 (a) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—On and after the date that  
6 is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this  
7 Act, the President shall impose the sanctions de-  
8 scribed in subsection (b) with respect to a foreign  
9 person if the President determines that the foreign  
10 person, on or after such date of enactment, know-  
11 ingly engages in an activity described in paragraph  
12 (2).

13 (2) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—A foreign person  
14 engages in an activity described in this paragraph if  
15 the foreign person—

16 (A) knowingly provides significant finan-  
17 cial, material, or technological support to, or  
18 knowingly engages in a significant transaction  
19 with—

20 (i) the Government of Syria (including  
21 any entity owned or controlled by the Gov-  
22 ernment of Syria) or a senior political fig-  
23 ure of the Government of Syria;

24 (ii) a foreign person that is a military  
25 contractor, mercenary, or a paramilitary  
26 force knowingly operating in a military ca-

1           pacity inside Syria for or on behalf of the  
2           Government of Syria, the Government of  
3           the Russian Federation, or the Govern-  
4           ment of Iran; or

5           (iii) a foreign person subject to sanc-  
6           tions pursuant to the International Emer-  
7           gency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C.  
8           1701 et seq.) with respect to Syria or any  
9           other provision of law that imposes sanc-  
10          tions with respect to Syria;

11          (B) knowingly sells or provides significant  
12          goods, services, technology, information, or  
13          other support that significantly facilitates the  
14          maintenance or expansion of the Government of  
15          Syria's domestic production of natural gas, pe-  
16          troleum, or petroleum products;

17          (C) knowingly sells or provides aircraft or  
18          spare aircraft parts that are used for military  
19          purposes in Syria for or on behalf of the Gov-  
20          ernment of Syria to any foreign person oper-  
21          ating in an area directly or indirectly controlled  
22          by the Government of Syria or foreign forces  
23          associated with the Government of Syria;

24          (D) knowingly provides significant goods  
25          or services associated with the operation of air-

craft that are used for military purposes in Syria for or on behalf of the Government of Syria to any foreign person operating in an area described in subparagraph (C); or

(E) knowingly, directly or indirectly, provides significant construction or engineering services to the Government of Syria.

(3) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that, in implementing this section, the President should consider financial support under paragraph (2)(A) to include the provision of loans, credits, or export credits.

(b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions to be imposed with respect to a foreign person subject to subsection (a) are the following:

(A) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—The President shall exercise all of the powers granted to the President under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of the foreign person if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or

1           come within the possession or control of a  
2           United States person.

3                   (B) ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS, AD-  
4           MISSION, OR PAROLE.—

5                   (i) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

6           An alien who the Secretary of State or the  
7           Secretary of Homeland Security (or a des-  
8           ignee of one of such Secretaries) knows, or  
9           has reason to believe, has knowingly en-  
10          gaged in any activity described in sub-  
11          section (a)(2) is—

12                   (I) inadmissible to the United  
13           States;

14                   (II) ineligible to receive a visa or  
15           other documentation to enter the  
16           United States; and

17                   (III) otherwise ineligible to be  
18           admitted or paroled into the United  
19           States or to receive any other benefit  
20           under the Immigration and Nation-  
21           ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

22                   (ii) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

23                   (I) IN GENERAL.—The issuing  
24           consular officer, the Secretary of  
25           State, or the Secretary of Homeland

1 Security (or a designee of one of such  
2 Secretaries) shall, in accordance with  
3 section 221(i) of the Immigration and  
4 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)),  
5 revoke any visa or other entry docu-  
6 mentation issued to an alien described  
7 in clause (i) regardless of when the  
8 visa or other entry documentation is  
9 issued.

10 (II) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—

11 A revocation under subclause (I)—

12 (aa) shall take effect imme-  
13 diately; and

14 (bb) shall automatically can-  
15 cel any other valid visa or entry  
16 documentation that is in the  
17 alien's possession.

18 (2) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in  
19 subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the Inter-  
20 national Emergency Economic Powers Act (50  
21 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that violates,  
22 attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a  
23 violation of regulations promulgated under section  
24 303(b) to carry out paragraph (1)(A) to the same  
25 extent that such penalties apply to a person that



1 commits an unlawful act described in section 206(a)  
 2 of that Act.

3 (3) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NA-  
 4 TIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.—Sanctions  
 5 under paragraph (1)(B) shall not apply with respect  
 6 to an alien if admitting or paroling the alien into the  
 7 United States is necessary to permit the United  
 8 States to comply with the Agreement regarding the  
 9 Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake  
 10 Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force No-  
 11 vember 21, 1947, between the United Nations and  
 12 the United States, or other applicable international  
 13 obligations.

## 14 **TITLE II—ASSISTANCE FOR THE** 15 **PEOPLE OF SYRIA**

### 16 **SEC. 201. CODIFICATION OF CERTAIN SERVICES IN SUP-** 17 **PORT OF NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZA-** 18 **TIONS' ACTIVITIES AUTHORIZED.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection  
 20 (b), section 542.516 of title 31, Code of Federal Regula-  
 21 tions (relating to certain services in support of nongovern-  
 22 mental organizations' activities authorized), as in effect on  
 23 the day before the date of the enactment of this Act,  
 24 shall—

1           (1) remain in effect on and after such date of  
2 enactment; and

3           (2) in the case of a nongovernmental organiza-  
4 tion that is authorized to export or reexport services  
5 to Syria under such section on the day before such  
6 date of enactment, apply to such organization on  
7 and after such date of enactment to the same extent  
8 and in the same manner as such section applied to  
9 such organization on the day before such date of en-  
10 actment.

11 (b) EXCEPTION.—

12           (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 542.516 of title 31,  
13 Code of Federal Regulations, as codified under sub-  
14 section (a), shall not apply with respect to a foreign  
15 person that has been designated as a foreign ter-  
16 rorist organization under section 219 of the Immigra-  
17 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189), or oth-  
18 erwise designated as a terrorist organization, by the  
19 Secretary of State, in consultation with or upon the  
20 request of the Attorney General or the Secretary of  
21 Homeland Security.

22           (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Paragraph (1) shall  
23 apply with respect to a foreign person on and after  
24 the date on which the designation of that person as

1 a terrorist organization is published in the Federal  
2 Register.

3 **SEC. 202. BRIEFING ON STRATEGY TO FACILITATE HUMANI-**  
4 **TARIAN ASSISTANCE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the  
6 date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall brief  
7 the appropriate congressional committees on the strategy  
8 of the President to help facilitate the ability of humani-  
9 tarian organizations to access financial services to help fa-  
10 cilitate the safe and timely delivery of assistance to com-  
11 munities in need in Syria.

12 (b) CONSIDERATION OF DATA FROM OTHER COUN-  
13 TRIES AND NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.—In  
14 preparing the strategy required by subsection (a), the  
15 President shall consider credible data already obtained by  
16 other countries and nongovernmental organizations, in-  
17 cluding organizations operating in Syria.

18 (c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-  
19 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congres-  
20 sional committees” means—

21 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the  
22 Committee on Financial Services, and the Com-  
23 mittee on Appropriations of the House of Represent-  
24 atives; and

1           (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the  
2       Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Af-  
3       fairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the  
4       Senate.

5                   **TITLE III—GENERAL**  
6                   **PROVISIONS**

7   **SEC. 301. SUSPENSION OF SANCTIONS.**

8       (a) IN GENERAL.—The President may suspend in  
9       whole or in part the imposition of sanctions otherwise re-  
10      quired under this Act for periods not to exceed 180 days  
11      if the President determines that the following criteria have  
12      been met in Syria:

13           (1) The air space over Syria is no longer being  
14      utilized by the Government of Syria or the Govern-  
15      ment of the Russian Federation to target civilian  
16      populations through the use of incendiary devices,  
17      including barrel bombs, chemical weapons, and con-  
18      ventional arms, including air-delivered missiles and  
19      explosives.

20           (2) Areas besieged by the Government of Syria,  
21      the Government of the Russian Federation, the Gov-  
22      ernment of Iran, or a foreign person described in  
23      section 102(a)(2)(A)(ii) are no longer cut off from  
24      international aid and have regular access to humani-

1       tarian assistance, freedom of travel, and medical  
2       care.

3           (3) The Government of Syria is releasing all po-  
4       litical prisoners forcibly held within the prison sys-  
5       tem of the regime of Bashar al-Assad and the Gov-  
6       ernment of Syria is allowing full access to the same  
7       facilities for investigations by appropriate inter-  
8       national human rights organizations.

9           (4) The forces of the Government of Syria, the  
10      Government of the Russian Federation, the Govern-  
11      ment of Iran, and any foreign person described in  
12      section 102(a)(2)(A)(ii) are no longer engaged in de-  
13      liberate targeting of medical facilities, schools, resi-  
14      dential areas, and community gathering places, in-  
15      cluding markets, in violation of international norms.

16      (5) The Government of Syria is—

17           (A) taking steps to verifiably fulfill its  
18      commitments under the Convention on the Pro-  
19      hibition of the Development, Production, Stock-  
20      piling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on  
21      their Destruction, done at Geneva September 3,  
22      1992, and entered into force April 29, 1997  
23      (commonly known as the “Chemical Weapons  
24      Convention”), and the Treaty on the Non-Pro-  
25      liferation of Nuclear Weapons, done at Wash-

1           ington, London, and Moscow July 1, 1968, and  
2           entered into force March 5, 1970 (21 UST  
3           483); and

4           (B) making tangible progress toward be-  
5           coming a signatory to the Convention on the  
6           Prohibition of the Development, Production and  
7           Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and  
8           Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, done  
9           at Washington, London, and Moscow April 10,  
10          1972, and entered into force March 26, 1975  
11          (26 UST 583).

12          (6) The Government of Syria is permitting the  
13          safe, voluntary, and dignified return of Syrians dis-  
14          placed by the conflict.

15          (7) The Government of Syria is taking  
16          verifiable steps to establish meaningful account-  
17          ability for perpetrators of war crimes in Syria and  
18          justice for victims of war crimes committed by the  
19          Assad regime, including by participation in a cred-  
20          ible and independent truth and reconciliation proc-  
21          ess.

22          (b) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days  
23          after the President makes a determination described in  
24          subsection (a), the President shall provide a briefing to  
25          the appropriate congressional committees on the deter-

1 mination and the suspension of sanctions pursuant to the  
2 determination.

3 (c) REIMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—Any sanctions  
4 suspended under subsection (a) shall be reimposed if the  
5 President determines that the criteria described in that  
6 subsection are no longer being met.

7 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
8 tion shall be construed to limit the authority of the Presi-  
9 dent to terminate the application of sanctions under sec-  
10 tion 102 with respect to a person that no longer engages  
11 in activities described in subsection (a)(2) of that section.

12 (e) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-  
13 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congres-  
14 sional committees” means—

15 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the  
16 Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on  
17 Ways and Means, the Committee on the Judiciary,  
18 and the Committee on Appropriations of the House  
19 of Representatives; and

20 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the  
21 Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Af-  
22 fairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Com-  
23 mittee on Appropriations of the Senate.

1 **SEC. 302. WAIVERS AND EXEMPTIONS.**

2 (a) EXEMPTIONS.—The following activities and  
3 transactions shall be exempt from sanctions authorized  
4 under this Act:

5 (1) Any activity subject to the reporting re-  
6 quirements under title V of the National Security  
7 Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.), or to any au-  
8 thorized law enforcement, national security, or intel-  
9 ligence activities of the United States.

10 (2) Any transaction necessary to comply with  
11 United States obligations under—

12 (A) the Agreement regarding the Head-  
13 quarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake  
14 Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force  
15 November 21, 1947, between the United Na-  
16 tions and the United States;

17 (B) the Convention on Consular Relations,  
18 done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and entered  
19 into force March 19, 1967; or

20 (C) any other international agreement to  
21 which the United States is a party.

22 (b) WAIVER.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President may, for peri-  
24 ods not to exceed 180 days, waive the application of  
25 any provision of this Act with respect to a foreign  
26 person if the President certifies to the appropriate



1 congressional committees that such a waiver is in  
2 the national security interests of the United States.

3 (2) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after  
4 the issuance of a waiver under paragraph (1), and  
5 every 180 days thereafter while the waiver remains  
6 in effect, the President shall brief the appropriate  
7 congressional committees on the reasons for the  
8 waiver.

9 (c) HUMANITARIAN WAIVER.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive,  
11 for renewable periods not to exceed 2 years, the ap-  
12 plication of any provision of this Act with respect to  
13 a nongovernmental organization providing humani-  
14 tarian assistance not covered by the authorization  
15 described in section 201 if the President certifies to  
16 the appropriate congressional committees that such  
17 a waiver is important to address a humanitarian  
18 need and is consistent with the national security in-  
19 terests of the United States.

20 (2) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after  
21 the issuance of a waiver under paragraph (1), and  
22 every 180 days thereafter while the waiver remains  
23 in effect, the President shall brief the appropriate  
24 congressional committees on the reasons for the  
25 waiver.

1 (d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES  
2 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-  
3 gressional committees” means—

4 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the  
5 Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on  
6 Ways and Means, the Committee on the Judiciary,  
7 and the Committee on Appropriations of the House  
8 of Representatives; and

9 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the  
10 Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Af-  
11 fairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Com-  
12 mittee on Appropriations of the Senate.

13 **SEC. 303. IMPLEMENTATION AND REGULATORY AUTHORI-**  
14 **TIES.**

15 (a) IMPLEMENTATION AUTHORITY.—The President  
16 may exercise all authorities provided to the President  
17 under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emer-  
18 gency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704)  
19 for purposes of carrying out this Act.

20 (b) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The President shall,  
21 not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment  
22 of this Act, promulgate regulations as necessary for the  
23 implementation of this Act.

1 **SEC. 304. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

2       Nothing in this Act may be construed to limit the  
3 authority of the President pursuant to the International  
4 Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et  
5 seq.) or any other provision of law.

6 **SEC. 305. SUNSET.**

7       This Act shall cease to be effective on the date that  
8 is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

○