

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 157

To authorize assistance for the Government of Tunisia, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2017

Mr. HASTINGS (for himself and Mr. SCHWEIKERT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To authorize assistance for the Government of Tunisia, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Combating Terrorism in Tunisia Emergency Support
6 Act of 2017”.

7 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
8 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.
- Sec. 3. Findings and declarations.
- Sec. 4. Statement of policy regarding Tunisia.
- Sec. 5. Assistance to strengthen and reform the security sector of Tunisia.

Sec. 6. Assistance to support efforts of the Government of Tunisia to combat terrorism.

Sec. 7. Assistance to support the military readiness of the Government of Tunisia.

Sec. 8. Assistance to support democracy and civil society in Tunisia.

Sec. 9. Assistance to support increased border security for Tunisia.

Sec. 10. Economic reforms and assistance.

Sec. 11. Memorandum of understanding.

Sec. 12. Strategic plan.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
4 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
5 mittees” means—

6 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations
7 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
8 Senate; and

9 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
10 the Committee on Appropriations of the House
11 of Representatives.

12 (2) DEFENSE ARTICLE; DEFENSE SERVICE;
13 TRAINING.—The terms “defense article”, “defense
14 service”, and “training” have the meanings given
15 those terms in section 47 of the Arms Export Con-
16 trol Act (22 U.S.C. 2794 note).

17 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.**

18 Congress finds and declares the following:

19 (1) Tunisia has been a critical ally of the
20 United States for more than 200 years, dating back
21 to 1797 when the Treaty of Peace and Friendship

1 was signed, ensuring the safety and availability of
2 open sea lanes in the Mediterranean Sea.

3 (2) On December 10, 2010, the self-immolation
4 of Tunisian fruit vendor, Mohammed Bouazizi, in-
5 spired popular revolutions across the region leading
6 to political transitions in four countries, often re-
7 ferred to as the “Arab Spring”, and initiating
8 Tunisia’s transition to democracy.

9 (3) In 2014, Tunisia became the first country
10 with a majority Muslim population in the Middle
11 East or North Africa to experience both Presidential
12 and parliamentary political transitions through free
13 and fair democratic elections.

14 (4) Since 2011, more than 3,000 Tunisian citi-
15 zens have gone to fight in Syria making Tunisia one
16 of the largest contributors to foreign fighters in
17 Syria.

18 (5) Tunisia shares a 285-mile border with
19 neighboring Libya and is currently hosting more
20 than 1,000,000 Libyan refugees fleeing the ongoing
21 Libyan civil war and the Islamic State (ISIS).

22 (6) The terrorist group Ansar al-Sharia (AAS)
23 was founded in April 2011 in Tunisia and is ideo-
24 logically aligned with Al-Qaeda in the Maghreb
25 (AQIM) and ISIS. AAS is responsible for the assas-

1 sinations of Tunisian MP Mohamed Brahimi on July
2 25, 2013, and secular-democratic political activist
3 Chokri Belaid on February 6, 2013.

4 (7) On September 14, 2012, Ansar al-Sharia
5 terrorists attacked the United States Embassy com-
6 pound, annex, and school in Tunis, Tunisia, causing
7 millions of dollars in damages.

8 (8) On January 10, 2014, Ansar al-Sharia was
9 designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the
10 United States.

11 (9) On March 18, 2015, 18 people were killed
12 in a terrorist attack at the Bardo National Museum
13 in Tunis, Tunisia.

14 (10) On June 27, 2015, at least 39 people were
15 killed and 36 injured in a terrorist attack on the
16 beach of a hotel resort in Sousse, Tunisia. The gun-
17 men had received training and support from ISIS in
18 Libya.

19 (11) On May 21, 2015, Tunisia was designated
20 as a major non-NATO ally of the United States.

21 (12) On September 29, 2015, Tunisia joined
22 the United States-led coalition to counter ISIS.

23 (13) On November 24, 2015, ISIS militants
24 conducted a bus bombing, targeting the Tunisian

1 Presidential guard and killing 12 people in Tunis,
2 Tunisia.

3 (14) On March 7, 2016, ISIS militants crossed
4 the Tunisian-Libyan border assaulting the city of
5 Ben Guerdane, Tunisia, killing 55 people during the
6 attack.

7 **SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY REGARDING TUNISIA.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—It is the policy of the United
9 States to further assist the democratically elected Govern-
10 ment of Tunisia in eliminating terrorist organizations that
11 operate in Tunisia and neighboring Libya and preventing
12 fighters in Syria from returning to Tunisia.

13 (b) CONDUCT OF POLICY.—The policy described in
14 subsection (a) shall be carried into effect, through a com-
15 prehensive effort, in coordination with allies and partners
16 of the United States, where appropriate, that will
17 strengthen the capabilities and coordination of the internal
18 security agencies, combat terrorism, strengthen military
19 readiness, assist in the improvement of the economic per-
20 formance of Tunisia, assist in the development of civil so-
21 ciety and provide assistance for border security, and other
22 technical assistance.

1 **SEC. 5. ASSISTANCE TO STRENGTHEN AND REFORM THE**
2 **SECURITY SECTOR OF TUNISIA.**

3 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Con-
4 gress that—

5 (1) security is a fundamental component of po-
6 litical stability and economic development;

7 (2) the security sector of Tunisia suffers from
8 decades of corruption and public mistrust under the
9 Ben Ali period;

10 (3) significant reform is necessary to enable the
11 Tunisian security services to combat terrorism and
12 reinforce the rule of law;

13 (4) a corrupt security sector impedes develop-
14 ment, deters investment, perpetuates poverty, and
15 undermines the rule of law; and

16 (5) in making security sector reforms it is im-
17 perative that the Government of Tunisia also protect
18 the fundamental human rights enshrined in
19 Tunisia's constitution.

20 (b) ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of
21 State, acting directly or through nongovernmental organi-
22 zations, international organizations, or related organiza-
23 tions, is authorized to provide assistance to strengthen and
24 reform the security sector of Tunisia, including to—

25 (1) facilitate better coordination among Tuni-
26 sian security agencies, including the General Direc-

(3) improve training for members of the judiciary, especially judges and prosecutors, instituting practices that conform to international standards for the rule of law;

13 (5) strengthen civilian oversight of the security
14 sector.

21 SEC. 6. ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT EFFORTS OF THE GOV-
22 ERNMENT OF TUNISIA TO COMBAT TER-
23 RORISM.

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1 zations, or related organizations is authorized to support
2 efforts of the Government of Tunisia to combat terrorism,
3 including by—

4 (1) providing technical training and equipment
5 to assist Tunisia to protect facilities, individuals,
6 and infrastructure;

7 (2) expanding training in the areas of crisis re-
8 sponse and tactical and command training;

9 (3) improving the capacity of Tunisian law en-
10 forcement to investigate terrorist incidents; and

11 (4) increasing training to prevent and respond
12 to improvised explosive devices.

13 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the
14 amounts authorized to be appropriated for Anti-terrorism
15 Assistance funding for fiscal year 2016, there are author-
16 ized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State
17 \$6,100,000 for fiscal year 2017 to carry out this section.

18 **SEC. 7. ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT THE MILITARY READI-**
19 **NESS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF TUNISIA.**

20 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
21 gress that expeditious consideration of sale, lease or loan,
22 grant, or transfers of defense articles, defense services,
23 and major defense equipment under the Arms Export
24 Control Act, Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, or any other
25 provision of law is consistent with United States policy

1 to assist the Government of Tunisia in eliminating ter-
2 rorist organizations that pose a threat to the national se-
3 curity and stability of Tunisia.

4 (b) ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized
6 to provide defense articles, defense services, and
7 training to the Government of Tunisia for the pur-
8 pose of countering terrorist threats pursuant to the
9 provisions of the Arms Export Control Act (22
10 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.), the Foreign Assistance Act of
11 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.), and other relevant
12 provisions of law.

13 (2) TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.—Assistance author-
14 ized under paragraph (1) may include the provision
15 of armored personnel carriers, helicopters, reconnais-
16 sance surveillance drones, and secure command and
17 communications equipment.

18 (c) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days
19 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
20 of State shall submit a report detailing the anticipated de-
21 fense articles, defense services, and training to be provided
22 pursuant to this section and a timeline for the provision
23 of such defense articles, defense services, and training,
24 to—

1 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the
2 Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on
3 Armed Services of the Senate; and

4 (2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
5 Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on
6 Armed Services of the House of Representatives.

7 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

8 (1) FOREIGN MILITARY FINANCING.—Of the
9 amounts authorized to be appropriated for Foreign
10 Military Financing funding for fiscal year 2017,
11 there is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
12 retary of State \$65,000,000 for fiscal year 2017 to
13 carry out this section.

14 (2) INTERNATIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION AND
15 TRAINING.—Of the amounts authorized to be appro-
16 priated for International Military Education and
17 Training funding for fiscal year 2017, there is au-
18 thorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State
19 \$2,300,000 for fiscal year 2017 to carry out this
20 section.

21 **SEC. 8. ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT DEMOCRACY AND CIVIL**
22 **SOCIETY IN TUNISIA.**

23 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
24 gress that—

1 (1) Tunisia represents one of the most prom-
2 ising opportunities for a pluralistic and participatory
3 democracy in the Middle East and North Africa; and

4 (2) the success of Tunisia's peaceful pursuit of
5 democracy is an inspiration to, and model for, other
6 countries in the region, and should be fully sup-
7 ported by the United States as it works to aid Tun-
8 isia to consolidate and build upon its democratic
9 gains.

10 (b) ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of
11 State, acting directly or through nongovernmental organi-
12 zations, international organizations, or related organiza-
13 tions, is authorized to provide assistance to support de-
14 mocracy and civil society in Tunisia, by—

15 (1) continuing the support of political party de-
16 velopment and improved communications with con-
17 stituents;

18 (2) increasing the capacity of the Tunisian Par-
19 liament and ministries to perform their mandated
20 functions including by providing the infrastructure
21 necessary to modernize official communications and
22 records keeping;

23 (3) improving the public affairs functions of the
24 Government of Tunisia to communicate more effec-
25 tively with citizens across the country;

1 (4) increasing the professional capacity of sup-
2 port staff in the Tunisian Parliament;

3 (5) encouraging the development of job creation
4 programs especially in the interior regions of Tuni-
5 sia;

6 (6) supporting Tunisian civil society organiza-
7 tions focused on government transparency and ac-
8 countability;

9 (7) supporting Tunisian agencies and organiza-
10 tions engaged in preparations for upcoming munic-
11 ipal elections;

12 (8) supporting Tunisian agencies and organiza-
13 tions engaged in countering radicalization programs;
14 and

15 (9) encouraging the development of employment
16 assistance programs targeted at youth and first time
17 job seekers.

18 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the
19 amounts authorized to be appropriated for Economic Sup-
20 port Fund funding for fiscal year 2017, there is author-
21 ized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State
22 \$74,000,000 for fiscal year 2017 to carry out this section.

1 **SEC. 9. ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT INCREASED BORDER SE-**
2 **URITY FOR TUNISIA.**

3 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
4 gress that—

5 (1) terrorist organizations such as Ansar al-
6 Sharia and the Islamic State have exploited the on-
7 going unrest in Libya and created terrorist sanc-
8 tuaries in ungoverned regions of Libya; and

9 (2) such terrorist organizations have carried out
10 cross-border attacks inside Tunisia and therefore
11 represent a significant threat to the stability of the
12 nascent democratic government of Tunisia.

13 (b) ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary of
14 State is authorized to provide assistance to support in-
15 creased border security for Tunisia by enhancing Tunisia’s
16 capabilities to detect, identify, and interdict illicit traf-
17 ficking of weapons through intensive training and equip-
18 ment donation.

19 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the
20 amounts authorized to be appropriated for Export Control
21 and Related Border Security Assistance funding for fiscal
22 year 2017, there is authorized to be appropriated to the
23 Secretary of State \$1,500,000 for fiscal year 2017 to
24 carry out this section.

25 **SEC. 10. ECONOMIC REFORMS AND ASSISTANCE.**

26 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—

1 (1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

2 (A) On December 13, 2016, the Millen-
3 nium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Board of
4 Directors selected Tunisia as a recipient of an
5 MCC compact—a 5-year grant that will encour-
6 age economic growth and reduce poverty.

7 (B) The MCC noted that their selection of
8 Tunisia was based, in part, on the fact that the
9 country has consolidated its democratic gains,
10 has created a significant policy reform agenda,
11 and has continued to work to combat poverty
12 and inequality.

13 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
14 Congress that—

15 (A) supporting Tunisia’s orderly reform of
16 its economic and social sectors should be a pri-
17 ority of the United States;

18 (B) the Government of Tunisia has made
19 notable progress liberalizing its economy after
20 decades of corruption and social exclusion
21 under the Ben Ali period but more reforms are
22 needed to solidify Tunisia’s economic stability;
23 and

24 (C) such reforms should aim to provide an
25 environment that is conducive to investment

1 while maintaining important and meaningful
2 labor protections.

3 (b) ECONOMIC REFORMS AND ASSISTANCE.—

4 (1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

5 (A) The World Bank has identified areas
6 of the Tunisian economy in need of immediate
7 structural reforms.

8 (B) Implementing these reforms may lead
9 to short-term economic hardships for many Tu-
10 nisian citizens.

11 (2) REPROGRAMMING AUTHORITY.—In order to
12 ameliorate these short-term hardships and
13 incentivize the Government of Tunisia to continue
14 implementing economic reforms, the Secretary of
15 State is authorized to reprogram funds from prior
16 appropriated but unobligated balances to carry out
17 the activities in support of Tunisia's economic re-
18 forms.

19 **SEC. 11. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.**

20 The Secretary of State is authorized, subject to the
21 availability of appropriations, to enter into a memorandum
22 of understanding with the Government of Tunisia to in-
23 crease military cooperation, including joint military exer-
24 cises, personnel exchanges, and enhanced strategic dia-
25 logue between the United States and Tunisia.

1 **SEC. 12. STRATEGIC PLAN.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
3 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State
4 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees
5 a strategic plan to carry out this Act.

6 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection
7 (a) shall include the following elements:

8 (1) Clearly defined goals and objectives, includ-
9 ing definitions of success, benchmarks, and a proc-
10 ess for incorporating lessons learned.

11 (2) Robust monitoring and evaluation proce-
12 dures for all programs carried out under this Act.

13 (3) Intended implementing partners, including
14 associated roles, and procedures to increase coordi-
15 nation and collaboration and eliminate overlap.

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