

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 589

To impose sanctions on the Supreme Leader of Iran and the President of Iran and their respective offices for human rights abuses and support for terrorism.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 27, 2023

Mr. BANKS (for himself, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. WALTZ, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. FALLON, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. GUEST, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. SWALWELL, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Financial Services, and Ways and Means, 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 impose sanctions on the Supreme Leader of Iran and the President of Iran and their respective offices for human rights abuses and support for terrorism.

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 “Mahsa Amini Human
3 rights and Security Accountability Act” or the “MAHSA
4 Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS ON IRAN’S SUPREME**
6 **LEADER’S OFFICE, ITS APPOINTEES, AND ANY**
7 **AFFILIATED PERSONS.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

9 (1) The Supreme Leader is an institution of the
10 Islamic Republic of Iran.

11 (2) The Supreme Leader holds ultimate author-
12 ity over Iran’s judiciary and security apparatus, in-
13 cluding the Ministry of Intelligence and Security,
14 law enforcement forces under the Interior Ministry,
15 the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), and
16 the Basij, a nationwide volunteer paramilitary group
17 subordinate to the IRGC, all of which have engaged
18 in human rights abuses in Iran. Additionally the
19 IRGC, a United States designated Foreign Terrorist
20 Organization, which reports to the Supreme Leader,
21 continues to perpetrate terrorism around the globe,
22 including attempts to kill and kidnap American citi-
23 zens on United States soil.

24 (3) The Supreme Leader appoints the head of
25 Iran’s judiciary. International observers continue to
26 criticize the lack of independence of Iran’s judicial

1 system and maintained that trials disregarded inter-
2 national standards of fairness.

3 (4) The revolutionary courts, created by Iran’s
4 former Supreme Leader Ruhollah Khomeini, within
5 Iran’s judiciary, are chiefly responsible for hearing
6 cases of political offenses, operate in parallel to
7 Iran’s criminal justice system and routinely hold
8 grossly unfair trials without due process, handing
9 down predetermined verdicts and rubberstamping
10 executions for political purpose.

11 (5) The Iranian security and law enforcement
12 forces engage in serious human rights abuse at the
13 behest of the Supreme Leader.

14 (6) Iran’s President, Ebrahim Raisi, sits at the
15 helm of the most sanctioned cabinet in Iranian his-
16 tory which includes internationally sanctioned rights
17 violators. Raisi has supported the recent crackdown
18 on protestors and is rights violator himself, having
19 served on a “death commission” in 1988 that led to
20 the execution of several thousand political prisoners
21 in Iran. He most recently served as the head of
22 Iran’s judiciary, a position appointed by Iran’s cur-
23 rent Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, and may likely
24 be a potential candidate to replace Khamenei as
25 Iran’s next Supreme Leader.

1 (7) On September 16th, 2022, 22-year-old
2 woman, Mahsa Amini, died in the detention of the
3 Morality Police after being beaten and detained for
4 allegedly transgressing discriminatory dress codes
5 for women. This tragic incident triggered wide-
6 spread, pro-women’s rights, pro-democracy protests
7 across all of Iran’s 31 provinces, calling for the end
8 to Iran’s theocratic regime.

9 (8) In the course of the protests, the Iranian
10 security forces’ violent crackdown includes mass ar-
11 rests, well documented beating of protestors, throt-
12 tling of the internet and telecommunications serv-
13 ices, and shooting protestors with live ammunition.
14 Five weeks into the protests, Iranian security forces
15 have reportedly killed hundreds of protestors and
16 other civilians, including women and children, and
17 wounded many more.

18 (9) Iran’s Supreme Leader is the leader of the
19 “Axis of Resistance”, which is a network of
20 Tehran’s terror proxy and partner militias material
21 supported by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps
22 that targets the United States as well as its allies
23 and partners.

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

1 (1) the United States shall stand with and sup-
2 port the people of Iran in their demand for funda-
3 mental human rights; and

4 (2) the United States shall continue to hold the
5 Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly the Supreme
6 Leader and President, accountable for abuses of
7 human rights, corruption, and export of terrorism.

8 (c) IN GENERAL.—

9 (1) DETERMINATION REQUIRED.—Not later
10 than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this
11 Act, and annually thereafter, the President shall de-
12 termine whether the sanctions listed in paragraph
13 (2) apply with respect to each person and entity de-
14 scribed in subsection (d), and impose all applicable
15 such sanctions with respect to each such person and
16 entity.

17 (2) SANCTIONS LISTED.—The sanctions listed
18 in this paragraph are the following:

19 (A) Sanctions described in section 105(c)
20 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Account-
21 ability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C.
22 8514(c)).

23 (B) Sanctions applicable with respect to a
24 person pursuant to Executive Order 13553 (50
25 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property

1 of certain persons with respect to serious
2 human rights abuses by the Government of
3 Iran).

4 (C) Sanctions applicable with respect to a
5 person pursuant to Executive Order 13224 (50
6 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property
7 and prohibiting transactions with persons who
8 commit, threaten to commit, or support ter-
9 rorism).

10 (D) Sanctions applicable with respect to a
11 person pursuant to Executive Order 13818 (re-
12 lating to blocking the property of persons in-
13 volved in serious human rights abuse or corrup-
14 tion).

15 (E) Sanctions applicable with respect to a
16 person pursuant to Executive Order 13876 (re-
17 lating to imposing sanctions with respect to
18 Iran).

19 (F) Penalties and visa bans applicable with
20 respect to a person pursuant to section 7031(c)
21 of the Department of State, Foreign Oper-
22 ations, and Related Programs Appropriations
23 Act, 2021.

24 (d) PERSONS DESCRIBED.—The persons described in
25 this subsection are the following:

1 (1) The Supreme Leader of Iran and any offi-
2 cial in the Office of the Supreme Leader of Iran.

3 (2) The President of Iran and any official in
4 the Office of the President of Iran or the President's
5 cabinet, including cabinet ministers and executive
6 vice presidents.

7 (3) Any entity, including foundations and eco-
8 nomic conglomerates, overseen by the Office of the
9 Supreme Leader of Iran which is complicit in financ-
10 ing or resourcing of human rights abuses or support
11 for terrorism.

12 (4) Any official of any entity owned or con-
13 trolled by the Supreme Leader of Iran or the Office
14 of the Supreme Leader of Iran.

15 (5) Any person determined by the Secretary of
16 the Treasury, in consultation with or at the rec-
17 ommendation of the Secretary of State—

18 (A) to be a person appointed by the Su-
19 preme Leader of Iran, the Office of the Su-
20 preme Leader of Iran, the President of Iran, or
21 the Office of the President of Iran to a position
22 as a state official of Iran, or as the head of any
23 entity located in Iran or any entity located out-
24 side of Iran that is owned or controlled by one
25 or more entities in Iran;

1 (B) to have materially assisted, sponsored,
2 or provided financial, material, or technological
3 support for, or goods or services to or in sup-
4 port of any person whose property and interests
5 in property are blocked pursuant to this section;

6 (C) to be owned or controlled by, or to
7 have acted or purported to act for or on behalf
8 of, directly or indirectly any person whose prop-
9 erty and interests in property are blocked pur-
10 suant to this section; or

11 (D) to be a member of the board of direc-
12 tors or a senior executive officer of any person
13 whose property and interests in property are
14 blocked pursuant to this section.

15 (e) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after
17 receiving a request from the chairman and ranking
18 member of one of the appropriate congressional com-
19 mittees with respect to whether a person meets the
20 criteria of a person described in subsection (d)(5),
21 the President shall—

22 (A) determine if the person meets such cri-
23 teria; and

24 (B) submit a classified or unclassified re-
25 port to such chairman and ranking member

1 with respect to such determination that includes
2 a statement of whether or not the President im-
3 posed or intends to impose sanctions with re-
4 spect to the person pursuant to this section.

5 (2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
6 TEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “ap-
7 propriate congressional committees” means—

8 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
9 the House of Representatives; and

10 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
11 the Senate.

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