

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1848

To authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to the Houthis, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 5, 2025

Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, and Mr. KEATING) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on 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 authorize the imposition of sanctions with respect to
the Houthis, 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Houthi Human Rights
5 Accountability Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

1 (1) Houthi efforts to indoctrinate Yemenis into
2 a violent, anti-Semitic, and extremist worldview are
3 a threat to a Yemeni-led peace process and to re-
4 gional stability; and

5 (2) it is counter to United States policy to pro-
6 vide support to the Houthis in Yemen, including by
7 supporting any efforts by the Houthis to indoctri-
8 nate, coerce, or force Yemenis to conform to their
9 violent, anti-Semitic, and extremist worldview.

10 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON HOUTHI INDOCTRINATION.**

11 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
12 ment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation
13 with the Administrator of the United States Agency for
14 International Development, shall submit to the appro-
15 priate congressional committees a report on—

16 (1) Houthi efforts to indoctrinate Yemenis into
17 a violent, anti-Semitic, or extremist worldview; and

18 (2) the long-term threat this indoctrination
19 campaign poses to regional stability.

20 **SEC. 4. REPORT ON OBSTACLES TO PROVISION OF HUMANI-**
21 **TARIAN AID IN AREAS OF YEMEN UNDER DE-**
22 **FACTO HOUTHI CONTROL.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
24 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State,
25 in consultation with the Administrator of the United

1 States Agency for International Development, shall submit
2 to the appropriate congressional committees a report on
3 obstacles to the provision of humanitarian aid by inter-
4 national organizations and nongovernmental organizations
5 in areas of Yemen under de-facto Houthi control.

6 (b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report re-
7 quired by subsection (a) shall include the following:

8 (1) An identification of challenges to distribu-
9 tion of humanitarian aid created by Houthi-enforced
10 rules, regulations, and bureaucracy with respect to
11 access, and freedom of movement, and the overall
12 impact on such rules, regulations, and bureaucracy
13 have on the international community’s ability to dis-
14 tribute such aid in a manner consistent with basic
15 humanitarian principles.

16 (2) An assessment of attempted Houthi inter-
17 ference in the delivery of humanitarian aid, includ-
18 ing the manipulation or undue influence of bene-
19 ficiary lists or related data for political or military
20 purposes, and the implications of any interference on
21 civilian needs and aid distribution.

22 (3) An evaluation of the Houthis’ use of vio-
23 lence and intimidation against humanitarian workers
24 and diplomats, including current and former United
25 States Embassy locally employed staff.

1 (4) An overview of the steps the United States
2 and its partners are taking to ensure humanitarian
3 assistance is delivered unhindered and consistent
4 with basic humanitarian principles, including how
5 United States-supported organizations respond to
6 attempted Houthi diversion or interference.

7 (5) SCOPE.—The report required by subsection
8 (a) shall address the period beginning on January 1,
9 2020, and ending on the date that is 90 days after
10 the date of the enactment of this Act.

11 **SEC. 5. REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES COMMITTED**
12 **BY THE HOUTHIS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
14 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State
15 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees
16 a report on human rights abuses committed by the
17 Houthis, including gender-based discrimination and vio-
18 lence, including—

- 19 (1) mahram regulations;
20 (2) recruitment and use of child soldiers;
21 (3) enforced disappearance;
22 (4) prolonged and arbitrary detention;
23 (5) conduct that amounts to torture; and
24 (6) unlawful killing.

1 (b) SCOPE.—The report required by subsection (a)
2 shall address the period beginning on March 1, 2015, and
3 ending on the date that is 90 days after the date of the
4 enactment of this Act.

5 **SEC. 6. SANCTIONS AUTHORIZED UNDER THE GLOBAL**
6 **MAGNITSKY HUMAN RIGHTS AND ACCOUNT-**
7 **ABILITY ACT.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
9 date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,
10 the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary
11 of the Treasury, shall submit to the appropriate congres-
12 sional committees a determination on whether foreign per-
13 sons described in subsection (b) meet the criteria for sanc-
14 tions authorized under the Global Magnitsky Human
15 Rights and Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 2656 note), in-
16 cluding with respect to acts that constitute gross violations
17 of internationally recognized human rights as defined in
18 section 502B(d)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
19 (22 U.S.C. 2304(d)(1)).

20 (b) PERSONS DESCRIBED.—A foreign person de-
21 scribed in this subsection is a foreign person that—

- 22 (1) is a member of the Houthis; and
23 (2) knowingly—

1 (A) imposes arbitrary or unlawful restric-
 2 tion on the delivery of humanitarian assistance
 3 in Yemen; or

4 (B) engages in the human rights abuses
 5 described in section 5(a).

6 **SEC. 7. SANCTIONS AUTHORIZED UNDER THE ROBERT**
 7 **LEVINSON HOSTAGE TAKING AND ACCOUNT-**
 8 **ABILITY ACT.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
 10 date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,
 11 the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary
 12 of the Treasury, shall submit to the appropriate congres-
 13 sional committees a determination on whether foreign per-
 14 sons described in subsection (b) meet the criteria for sanc-
 15 tions authorized under the Robert Levinson Hostage Re-
 16 covery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act (22 U.S.C.
 17 1741 et seq.), and Executive Order 14078.

18 (b) PERSONS DESCRIBED.—A foreign person de-
 19 scribed in this subsection is a foreign person that—

20 (1) is a member of the Houthis; and

21 (2)(A) is responsible for or is complicit in, or
 22 responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise di-
 23 recting, the hostage-taking of a United States na-
 24 tional abroad or the unlawful or wrongful detention
 25 of a United States national abroad; or

1 (B) knowingly provides financial, material, or
2 technological support for, or goods or services in
3 support of, an activity described in subparagraph
4 (A).

5 **SEC. 8. SUNSET.**

6 This Act shall terminate on the date that is 5 years
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

8 **SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.**

9 In this Act—

10 (1) the term “appropriate congressional com-
11 mittees” means—

12 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
13 the Committee on Appropriations of the House
14 of Representatives; and

15 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations
16 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
17 Senate;

18 (2) the term “foreign person” means a person
19 that is not a United States person;

20 (3) the term “Houthis” refers to persons offi-
21 cially known as “Ansarallah”;

22 (4) the term “person” means an individual or
23 entity; and

24 (5) the term “United States person” means—

25 (A) a national of the United States;

1 (B) an alien who is lawfully present in the
2 United States; or

3 (C) an entity organized under the laws of
4 the United States or of any jurisdiction within
5 the United States, including a foreign branch of
6 such an entity.

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