

**Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 1684, With an Amendment**

**(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)**

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1684

To require the Secretary of State to submit an annual report to Congress regarding the ties between criminal gangs and political and economic elites in Haiti and impose sanctions on political and economic elites involved in such criminal activities.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 21, 2023

Mr. MEEKS (for himself, Mr. McCAUL, and Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK) 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

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of State to submit an annual report to Congress regarding the ties between criminal gangs and political and economic elites in Haiti and impose sanctions on political and economic elites involved in such criminal activities.

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 “Haiti Criminal Collu-  
3 sion Transparency Act of 2023”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress makes the following findings:

6 (1) According to a United Nations estimate, ap-  
7 proximately 167 criminal gangs operated in Haiti in  
8 October 2021, exerting territorial control over as  
9 much as two-thirds of the country.

10 (2) Haitian armed criminal gangs, the most  
11 prominent of which are the G9 Family and Allies  
12 and 400 Mawozo gangs, conduct violent crimes, in-  
13 cluding murder, rape, arms and drug trafficking,  
14 racketeering, kidnapping, and blockades of fuel and  
15 aid deliveries. These crimes have perpetuated the on-  
16 going security and humanitarian crises in Haiti,  
17 which have worsened since the assassination of  
18 President Jovenel Moïse on July 7, 2021.

19 (3) The United Nations Office of the High  
20 Commissioner for Human Rights and the Human  
21 Rights Service jointly found a 333 percent increase  
22 in human rights violations and abuses against the  
23 rights to life and security in Haiti between July  
24 2018 and December 2019.

25 (4) At least 19,000 Haitians were forcibly dis-  
26 placed during 2021 due to rising criminal violence.

1           (5) Armed gangs have used rape, and other  
2 forms of sexual violence to instill fear, punish, sub-  
3 jugate, and inflict pain on local populations with the  
4 goal of expanding their areas of influence in Port-  
5 au-Prince.

6           (6) At least 803 kidnappings were reported in  
7 Haiti during the first 10 months of 2021, including  
8 the kidnapping of more than 16 United States citi-  
9 zens, giving Haiti having the highest per capita kid-  
10 napping rate of any country in the world.

11           (7) There is significant evidence of collusion be-  
12 tween criminal gangs and economic and political  
13 elites in Haiti, including members of the Haitian  
14 National Police, which has resulted in widespread  
15 impunity and directly contributed to Haiti's current  
16 security crisis.

17           (8) On December 10, 2020, the Office of For-  
18 eign Assets Control of the Department of the Treas-  
19 ury designated former Haitian National Police offi-  
20 cer Jimmy Chérizier, former Director General of the  
21 Ministry of the Interior Fednel Monchery, and  
22 former Departmental Delegate Joseph Pierre Rich-  
23 ard Duplan under the Global Magnitsky Human  
24 Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of  
25 Public Law 114–328; 22 U.S.C. 2656 note) for their

1 connections to armed criminal gangs, including orga-  
2 nizing the November 2018 La Saline massacre.

3 **SEC. 3. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

8 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of  
9 the Senate;

10 (B) the Select Committee on Intelligence  
11 of the Senate;

12 (C) the Committee on the Judiciary of the  
13 Senate;

14 (D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
15 the House of Representatives;

16 (E) the Permanent Select Committee on  
17 Intelligence of the House of Representatives;  
18 and

19 (F) the Committee on the Judiciary of the  
20 House of Representatives.

21 (2) ECONOMIC ELITES.—The term “economic  
22 elites” means board members, officers, and execu-  
23 tives of groups, committees, corporations, or other  
24 entities that exert substantial influence or control

1 over Haiti’s economy, infrastructure, or particular  
2 industries.

3 (3) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term  
4 “intelligence community” has the meaning given  
5 such term in section 3(4) of the National Security  
6 Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).

7 (4) POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ELITES.—The  
8 term “political and economic elites” means political  
9 elites and economic elites.

10 (5) POLITICAL ELITES.—The term “political  
11 elites” means current and former government offi-  
12 cials and their high-level staff, political party lead-  
13 ers, and political committee leaders.

14 (b) REPORT REQUIRED.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after  
16 the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually  
17 thereafter for the following 5 years, the Secretary of  
18 State, in coordination with the intelligence commu-  
19 nity, shall submit a report to the appropriate con-  
20 gressional committees regarding the ties between  
21 criminal gangs and political and economic elites in  
22 Haiti. The report shall—

23 (A) identify prominent criminal gangs in  
24 Haiti, describe their criminal activities includ-

1           ing coercive recruitment, and identify their pri-  
2           mary geographic areas of operations;

3           (B) list Haitian political and economic  
4           elites who have links to criminal gangs;

5           (C) describe in detail the relationship be-  
6           tween the individuals listed pursuant to sub-  
7           paragraph (B) and the criminal gangs identified  
8           pursuant to subparagraph (A);

9           (D) list Haitian political and economic  
10          elites with links to criminal activities who are  
11          currently subjected to visa restrictions or sanc-  
12          tions by the United States, its international  
13          partners, or the United Nations, including in-  
14          formation regarding—

15               (i) the date on which each such Hai-  
16               tian political or economic elite was des-  
17               ignated for restrictions or sanctions;

18               (ii) which countries have designated  
19               such Haitian political and economic elites  
20               for restrictions or sanctions; and

21               (iii) for Haitian political and economic  
22               elites who were designated by the United  
23               States, the statutory basis for such des-  
24               ignation;

1 (E) describe in detail how Haitian political  
2 and economic elites use their relationships with  
3 criminal gangs to advance their political and  
4 economic interests and agenda;

5 (F) include a list of each criminal organi-  
6 zation assessed to be trafficking Haitians and  
7 other individuals to the United States border;

8 (G) include an assessment of how the na-  
9 ture and extent of collusion between political  
10 and economic elites and criminal gangs threat-  
11 ens the Haitian people and United States na-  
12 tional interests and activities in the country, in-  
13 cluding the provision of security assistance to  
14 the Haitian government; and

15 (H) include an assessment of potential ac-  
16 tions that the Government of the United States  
17 and the Government of Haiti could take to ad-  
18 dress the findings made pursuant to subpara-  
19 graph (G).

20 (2) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required  
21 under paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassi-  
22 fied form, but may include a classified annex.

23 (c) DESIGNATIONS OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC  
24 ELITES.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in  
2           coordination with other relevant Federal agencies  
3           and departments, shall identify persons identified  
4           pursuant to subparagraphs (A) and (B) of sub-  
5           section (b)(1) who may be subjected to visa restric-  
6           tions and sanctions under—

7                   (A) section 7031(c) of the Department of  
8                   State, Foreign Operations, and Related Pro-  
9                   grams Appropriations Act, 2022 (division K of  
10                  Public Law 117–103; 8 U.S.C. 1182 note); or

11                  (B) section 1263 of the Global Magnitsky  
12                  Human Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C.  
13                  10102).

14           (2) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—

15                   (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days  
16                   after the date on which the report is submitted  
17                   pursuant to subsection (b), the President shall  
18                   impose, on individuals identified pursuant to  
19                   paragraph (1), to the extent applicable, the  
20                   sanctions referred to in subparagraphs (A) and  
21                   (B) of such paragraph.

22                   (B) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTA-  
23                   TION OF GOODS.—

24                           (i) IN GENERAL.—A requirement to  
25                           block and prohibit all transactions in all



1 property and interests in property pursu-  
2 ant to the authority provided by this sec-  
3 tion shall not include the authority or a re-  
4 quirement to impose sanctions on the im-  
5 portation of goods.

6 (ii) GOOD DEFINED.—In this section,  
7 the term “good” means any article, natural  
8 or manmade substance, material, supply or  
9 manufactured product, including inspection  
10 and test equipment, and excluding tech-  
11 nical data.

12 (3) WAIVER.—The President may waive the re-  
13 quirements under paragraphs (1) and (2) with re-  
14 spect to a foreign person if the President certifies  
15 and reports to the appropriate congressional com-  
16 mittees before such waiver is to take effect that such  
17 waiver—

18 (A) would serve a vital national interest of  
19 the United States; or

20 (B) is necessary for the delivery of human-  
21 itarian assistance or other assistance that sup-  
22 ports basic human needs.

23 (4) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The list of persons  
24 identified pursuant to subsection (b)(1)(B) shall be  
25 posted on a publicly accessible website of the De-

1       partment of State beginning on the date on which  
2       the report required under subsection (b)(1) is sub-  
3       mitted to Congress.

4       (d) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to have effect  
5       on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment  
6       of this Act.