Joe Wilson

(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To prohibit any official action to recognize or normalize relations with any Government of Syria that is led by Bashar al-Assad, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To prohibit any official action to recognize or normalize relations with any Government of Syria that is led by Bashar al-Assad, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Assad Regime Anti-Normalization Act of 2023".

1 **SEC. 2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE CAESAR SYRIA CIVILIAN**
2 **PROTECTION ACT.**

3 (a) CAESAR SYRIA CIVILIAN PROTECTION ACT.—
4 Section 7412 of the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act
5 of 2019 (title LXXIV of the National Defense Authoriza-
6 tion Act for Fiscal Year 2020; 22 U.S.C. 8791 note) is
7 amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a)—

9 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking "with re-
10 spect to a foreign person if the President deter-
11 mines that the foreign person, on or after such
12 date of enactment, knowingly engages in an ac-
13 tivity described in paragraph (2)." and insert-
14 ing "with respect to a foreign person that the
15 President determines—"

16 "(A) knowingly engages, on or after such
17 date of enactment, in an activity described in
18 paragraph (2);

19 "(B) is an adult family member of a for-
20 eign person described in subparagraph (A); or

21 "(C) is owned or controlled by a foreign
22 person described in subparagraph (A) or (B).";

23 (B) in paragraph (2)—

24 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

25 (I) by amending clause (i) to
26 read as follows:

"(i) the Government of Syria (including any entity owned or controlled by the Government of Syria), a senior political figure of the Government of Syria, a member of the People's Assembly of Syria, or a senior foreign political figure (as such term is defined in section 101.605 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations) of the Arab Socialist Ba'ath Party of Syria, including any such senior foreign political figure who is—

"(I) a member of the Central Command, Central Committee, or Auditing and Inspection Committee of such Party; or

"(II) a leader of a local branch of such Party;";

(II) in clause (ii), by striking "; or" and inserting a semicolon;

(III) in clause (iii), by striking the semicolon and inserting "; or"; and

(IV) by adding at the end the following new clause:

"(iv) Syria Arab Airlines, Cham Wings, or any foreign person owned or controlled by Syria Arab Airlines or Cham Wings;";

(ii) by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

"(C) knowingly sells or provides aircraft or spare aircraft parts—

"(i) to the Government of Syria; or

"(ii) for or on behalf of the Government of Syria to any foreign person operating in an area directly or indirectly controlled by the Government of Syria or foreign forces associated with the Government of Syria;";

(iii) in subparagraph (D), by striking "; or" and inserting a semicolon;

(iv) in subparagraph (E)—

(I) by striking "construction or engineering services" and inserting "financial, construction, or engineering services"; and

(II) by striking the closing period and inserting a semicolon; and

(v) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

"(F) knowingly engages in or directs—

"(i) the diversion of goods (including agricultural commodities, food, medicine, and medical devices), or any international humanitarian assistance, intended for the people of Syria; or

"(ii) the dealing in proceeds from the sale or resale of such diverted goods or international humanitarian assistance, as the case may be;

"(G) knowingly, directly or indirectly, engages in or attempts to engage in, the seizure, confiscation, theft, or expropriation for personal gain or political purposes of property, including real property, in Syria or owned by a citizen of Syria;

"(H) knowingly, directly or indirectly, engages in or attempts to engage in a transaction or transactions for or with such seized, confiscated, stolen, or expropriated property described in subparagraph (G); or

"(I) knowingly provides significant financial, material, or technological support to a for-

1 eign person engaging in an activity described in
2 any of subparagraphs (A) through (H)."; and
3 (C) by adding at the end the following new
4 paragraphs:
5 "(4) TRANSACTION DEFINED.—For purposes of
6 the determination required by subparagraph
7 (a)(2)(A), the term 'transaction' includes in-kind
8 transactions.
9 "(5) SIGNIFICANT TRANSACTION CLARIFIED.—
10 In this section, the term 'significant transaction' in-
11 cludes any natural gas, electricity, or other energy-
12 related transaction, without regard to whether such
13 transaction was authorized by a license or regulation
14 issued prior the date of the enactment of this para-
15 graph pursuant to section 203 of the International
16 Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C.
17 1702)."; and
18 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
19 section:
20 "(c) CONGRESSIONAL REQUESTS.—Not later than 30
21 days after receiving a request from the chairman and
22 ranking member of one of the appropriate congressional
23 committees with respect to whether a foreign person know-
24 ingly engages in an activity described in subsection (a)(2)
25 the President shall—

1 "(1) make the determination specified in sub-
2 section (a)(1) with respect to that foreign person;
3 and
4 "(2) submit to such chairman and ranking
5 member that submitted the request a report with re-
6 spect to such determination that includes a state-
7 ment of whether the President has imposed or in-
8 tends to impose the sanctions described in sub-
9 section (b) with respect to that foreign person.".
10 (b) REMOVAL OF EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPOR-
11 TATION OF GOODS.—The Caesar Syria Civilian Protection
12 Act of 2019, as amended by subsection (a), is further
13 amended—
14 (1) by striking section 7434; and
15 (2) by redesignating sections 7435 through
16 7438 as sections 7434 through 7437, respectively.
17 (c) DETERMINATION WITH RESPECT TO SYRIA
18 TRUST FOR DEVELOPMENT.—
19 (1) DETERMINATION.—Not later than 120 days
20 after the enactment of this Act, the President
21 shall—
22 (A) determine whether the nonprofit orga-
23 nization chaired by Asma Al-Assad, the First
24 Lady of Syria, known as the "Syria Trust for
25 Development" meets the criteria for the imposi-

1 tion of sanctions under section 7412(a) of the
2 Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019,
3 as amended by subsection (a); and
4 (B) submit to the appropriate congres-
5 sional committees such determination, including
6 a justification for the determination.
7 (2) FORM.—The determination under para-
8 graph (1)(B) shall be submitted in unclassified form,
9 but the justification specified in such paragraph may
10 be included in a classified annex. The unclassified
11 determination shall be made available on a publicly
12 available website of the Federal government.
13 (3) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
14 TEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term "appro-
15 priate congressional committees" means—
16 (A) the Committee on Armed Services, the
17 Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Com-
18 mittee on Financial Services of the House of
19 Representatives; and
20 (B) the Committee on Armed Services, the
21 Committee on Foreign Relations and the Com-
22 mittee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
23 of the Senate.

1 (d) FINDINGS ON APPLICABILITY WITH RESPECT TO
2 SYRIAN ARAB AIRLINES, CHAM WINGS AIRLINES, AND
3 RELATED ENTITIES.—Congress finds the following:
4 (1) In 2013, the President identified Syrian
5 Arab Airlines as a blocked instrumentality or con-
6 trolled entity of the Government of Syria and con-
7 currently sanctioned Syrian Arab Airlines pursuant
8 to Executive Order 13224 for acting for or on behalf
9 of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods
10 Force of Iran.
11 (2) In 2016, the President sanctioned Syria-
12 based Cham Wings Airlines pursuant to Executive
13 Order 13582 for having materially assisted, spon-
14 sored, or provided financial, material, or techno-
15 logical support for, or goods or services in support
16 of, the Government of Syria and Syrian Arab Air-
17 lines.
18 (3) Section 7412(a)(2)(A)(iii) of the Caesar
19 Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 (22 U.S.C.
20 8791 note) mandates the application of sanctions
21 against any foreign person that "knowingly provides
22 significant financial, material, or technological sup-
23 port to, or knowingly engages in a significant trans-
24 action with...a foreign person subject to sanctions
25 pursuant to the International Emergency Economic

1 Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) with respect to
2 Syria or any other provision of law that imposes
3 sanctions with respect to Syria,", which applies to
4 airport service providers outside of Syria.

5 (e) SEVERABILITY.—If any provision of this Act, or
6 the application of such provision to any person or cir-
7 cumstance, is found to be unconstitutional, the remainder
8 of this Act, or the application of that provision to other
9 persons or circumstances, shall not be affected.

10 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION OF RECOGNITION OF ASSAD REGIME.**

11 (a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the
12 United States—

13 (1) not to recognize or normalize relations with
14 any Government of Syria that is led by Bashar al-
15 Assad due to the Assad regime's ongoing crimes
16 against the Syrian people, including failure to meet
17 the criteria outlined in section 7431(a) of the Caesar
18 Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019;

19 (2) to actively oppose recognition or normaliza-
20 tion of relations by other governments with any Gov-
21 ernment of Syria that is led by Bashar Al-Assad, in-
22 cluding by fully implementing the mandatory pri-
23 mary and secondary sanctions in the Caesar Syria
24 Civilian Protection Act of 2019 and Executive Order
25 13894; and

1 (3) to use the full range of authorities, includ-
2 ing those provided under the Caesar Syria Civilian
3 Protection Act of 2019 and Executive Order 13894,
4 to deter reconstruction activities in areas under the
5 control of Bashar al-Assad.

6 (b) PROHIBITION.—In accordance with subsection
7 (a), no Federal official or employee may take any action,
8 and no Federal funds may be made available, to recognize
9 or otherwise imply, in any manner, United States recogni-
10 tion of Bashar al-Assad or any Government in Syria that
11 is led by Bashar al-Assad.

12 **SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY STRATEGY TO COUNTER NORMAL-**
13 **IZATION WITH ASSAD REGIME.**

14 (a) REPORT AND STRATEGY REQUIRED.—

15 (1) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 180 days
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and an-
17 nually thereafter for a period not to exceed 5 years,
18 the Secretary of State (in consultation with the Sec-
19 retary of the Treasury, the Administrator of the
20 Drug Enforcement Administration, and the heads of
21 other appropriate Federal departments and agen-
22 cies) shall submit to the appropriate congressional
23 committees a report and strategy to describe and
24 counter actions taken or planned by foreign govern-
25 ments to normalize, engage with, or upgrade polit-

1 ical, diplomatic, or economic ties with the regime led
2 by Bashar al-Assad in Syria (in this section referred
3 to as the "Assad regime").
4 (2) ELEMENTS.—The elements of the report
5 under paragraph (1) shall include—
6 (A) a description of violations of inter-
7 national law and human rights abuses com-
8 mitted by Bashar al-Assad, the Government of
9 the Russian Federation, or the Government of
10 Iran and progress towards justice and account-
11 ability for the Syrian people;
12 (B) a full list of diplomatic meetings at the
13 Ambassador level or above, between the Syrian
14 regime and any representative of the Govern-
15 ments of Turkey, the United Arab Emirates,
16 Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait,
17 the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Algeria,
18 Morocco, Libya, or Lebanon, respectively;
19 (C) a full list of transactions, including in-
20 vestments, grants, contracts, or donations (in-
21 cluding loans or other extension of credit), ex-
22 ceeding $50,000 in areas of Syria held by the
23 Assad regime by any persons from Turkey, the
24 United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq,
25 Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi

1 Arabia, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Libya, or
2 Lebanon;
3 (D) for each item on the list identified in
4 subparagraph (C), a determination of whether
5 such transaction subjects any of the parties to
6 the transaction to sanctions under the Caesar
7 Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019, as
8 amended by section 2;
9 (E) a description of the steps the United
10 States is taking to actively deter recognition or
11 normalization of relations by other governments
12 with the Assad regime, including specific diplo-
13 matic engagements and use of economic sanc-
14 tions authorized by statutes or implemented
15 through Executive Orders, including—
16 (i) the Caesar Syria Civilian Protec-
17 tion Act of 2019 (22 U.S.C. 8791 note);
18 (ii) the Syria Accountability and Leb-
19 anese Sovereignty Restoration Act (22
20 U.S.C. 2151 note);
21 (iii) the Comprehensive Iran Sanc-
22 tions, Accountability, and Divestment Act
23 of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8501 et seq.);
24 (iv) Executive Order 13894 (84 Fed.
25 Reg. 55851; relating to blocking property

1 and suspending entry of certain persons
2 contributing to the situation in Syria);
3 (v) the Global Magnitsky Human
4 Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C.
5 10101 et seq.);
6 (vi) the Countering American Adver-
7 saries through Sanctions Act (22 U.S.C.
8 9401 et seq.); and
9 (vii) the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin
10 Designation Act; and
11 (F) an assessment of how recognition or
12 normalization of relations by other governments
13 with the Assad regime impacts the national se-
14 curity of the United States, prospects for imple-
15 mentation of the United Nations Security
16 Council Resolution 2254, prospects for justice
17 and accountability for war crimes in Syria, and
18 the benefits derived by the Government of the
19 Russian Federation or the Government of Iran.
20 (b) SCOPE.—The initial report required by subsection
21 (a) shall address the period beginning on January 1, 2021,
22 and ending on the date of the enactment of this Act, and
23 each subsequent report shall address the one-year period
24 following the conclusion of the scope of the prior report.

1 (c) FORM.—Each report under subsection (a) shall
2 be submitted in an unclassified form, but may contain a
3 classified annex. The unclassified section of such a report
4 shall be made publicly available on a website of the United
5 States Federal Government.

6 (d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—
7 In this section, the term "appropriate congressional com-
8 mittees" means—

9 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
10 Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Fi-
11 nancial Services, the Committee on Appropriations,
12 and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
13 of the House of Representatives; and

14 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the
15 Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on
16 Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Com-
17 mittee on Appropriations, and the Select Committee
18 on Intelligence of the Senate.

19 **SEC. 5. REPORTS ON MANIPULATION OF UNITED NATIONS**
20 **BY ASSAD REGIME IN SYRIA.**

21 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
22 ment of this Act, and annually thereafter for a period not
23 to exceed 5 years, the Secretary of State, shall submit to
24 the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
25 resentatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of

1 the Senate a report on the manipulation of the United
2 Nations by the regime led by Bashar al-Assad in Syria
3 (in this section referred to as the "Assad regime"), includ-
4 ing—

5 (1) a description of conditions, both explicit and
6 implicit, set by the Assad regime with respect to
7 United Nations operations in Syria including with
8 respect to implementing partners, hiring practices,
9 allocation of grants and contracts, and procurement
10 of goods and services;

11 (2) a description of the extent to which the
12 United Nations has rejected or otherwise opposed
13 any of the conditions described in paragraph (1);

14 (3) an identification of officials or employees of
15 the United Nations (including funds, programs and
16 specialized agencies of the United Nations) with ties
17 to the Assad regime, including family ties, or per-
18 sons designated for sanctions by United Nations
19 donor countries;

20 (4) a full account of access restrictions imposed
21 by the Assad regime and the overall impact on the
22 ability of the United Nations to deliver international
23 assistance to target beneficiaries in areas outside re-
24 gime control;

1 (9) an assessment of the degree to which the
2 various forms of manipulation described in this sec-
3 tion has resulted in compromises of the humani-
4 tarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impar-
5 tiality, and independence of the United Nations; and
6 (10) a strategy to reduce the ability of the
7 Assad regime to manipulate or otherwise influence
8 the United Nations and other aid operations in
9 Syria and ensure United States and international
10 aid is delivered in a neutral and impartial manner
11 consistent with basic humanitarian principles.

ADD A COSPONSOR

CONGRESS: 118th

SESSION: 1st

DATE: 5/11/23

Pursuant to clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following sponsors are hereby added to:

H.R. _____ H. Con. Res. _____

H.J. Res. _____ H. Res. _____

	MEMBER NAME (PRINT)	ORIGINAL SIGNATURE	STATE
1	Vicente Gonzalez		TX-34
2	Michael McCaul		TX-10
3	French Hill		AR-2
4	Brendan Boyle		PA-2
5	Amata Radewagon		AS-AL
6	Steve Cohen		TN-09
7	Carlos Giménez		FL-28
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Primary Sponsor's Original Signature Joe Wilson

Print Member Name Joe Wilson

If you are unable to complete this form in your web browser, please save the PDF to your desktop and open it directly from there.

PRINT FORM

(To be completed by Clerk)

H. R. #/H. J. Res. #

Member's Signature

Joe Wilson

Member's Name (printed)

REQUIRED STATEMENTS FOR INTRODUCTION

To accompany:

Provide the HOLC file name, short title, or long title.

Assad Regime Anti-Normalization Act of 2023

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of Rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the U.S. Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

Constitutional Authority Statement

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Provide the relevant citation to the U.S. Constitution. For assistance completing this section, including citation information, please refer to HOLC guidance (users may need to log into SharePoint using their mail.house.gov email to access guidance).

Article 1, Section 8

Single Subject Statement

The single subject of this legislation is:

Provide the single subject of the bill. For assistance completing this section, please contact the Office of the Parliamentarian at (202) 225-7373.

To prevent normalization with dictator Bashar al-Assad