

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4603

To provide for the continuation in effect of sanctions with respect to Yemen,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 7, 2017

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. McCAUL, and Mr. DONOVAN) 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 provide for the continuation in effect of sanctions with
respect to Yemen, 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 “Houthis and Iran
5 Sanctions Accountability Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) On April 2015, the United Nations Security
2 Council adopted United Nations Security Council
3 Resolution 2216 by 14 affirmative votes to none
4 against, with one abstention (by the Russian Fed-
5 eration), imposing sanctions on individuals under-
6 mining the stability of Yemen, and demanded that
7 the Houthis withdraw from all areas seized during
8 the latest conflict, relinquish arms seized from mili-
9 tary and security institutions, cease all actions fall-
10 ing exclusively within the authority of the legitimate
11 Government of Yemen, and fully implement previous
12 Security Council resolutions.

13 (2) On May 16, 2012, the Obama administra-
14 tion issued Executive Order 13611 (50 U.S.C. 1701
15 note; relating to Blocking Property of Persons
16 Threatening the Peace, Security, or Stability of
17 Yemen), imposing sanctions on persons that “have
18 engaged in acts that directly or indirectly threaten
19 the peace, security, or stability of Yemen, such as
20 acts that obstruct the implementation of the agree-
21 ment of November 23, 2011, between the Govern-
22 ment of Yemen and those in opposition to it, which
23 provides for a peaceful transition of power in
24 Yemen, or that obstruct the political process in
25 Yemen”.

1 (3) On November 10, 2014, the Obama admin-
2 istration designated the leadership of the Iranian-
3 supported Houthi insurgent group, and their ally
4 former Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, for im-
5 position of sanctions under Executive Order 13611.

6 (4) Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps has
7 transferred increasingly sophisticated weapons sys-
8 tems to the Houthis, who have in turn shot missiles
9 into Saudi Arabia from positions in northern Yemen,
10 including a missile in November 2017 that targeted
11 Riyadh International Airport. In response, Amba-
12 sador Nikki Haley called on “the United Nations
13 and international partners to take necessary action
14 to hold the Iranian regime accountable for these vio-
15 lations”.

16 (5) In addition to weapons, Iran is reportedly
17 providing Afghan and Shi’ite Arab specialists, in-
18 cluding Hizballah, to train Houthi units and act as
19 logistical advisers.

20 (6) The Iranian-supported Houthis have at-
21 tacked coalition or coalition-affiliated maritime tar-
22 gets multiple times, a United States Navy ship
23 twice, and other shipping, forcing the United States
24 to respond with a combination of diplomacy and cali-

1 brated military strikes against three radar facilities
2 in Houthi-controlled territory.

3 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

4 It shall be the policy of the United States to condemn
5 Iranian activities in Yemen in violation of United Nations
6 Security Council Resolution 2216 (2015), and call on all
7 responsible countries to take appropriate and necessary
8 measures against the Government of Iran, including the
9 interdiction of Iranian weapons to the Houthis, and the
10 bilateral and multilateral application of sanctions against
11 Iran for its violations of United Nations Security Council
12 Resolution 2216.

13 **SEC. 4. CONTINUATION IN EFFECT OF SANCTIONS WITH RE-**
14 **SPECT TO YEMEN.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—United States sanctions with re-
16 spect to Yemen provided for in Executive Order 13611
17 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to Blocking Property of
18 Persons Threatening the Peace, Security, or Stability of
19 Yemen), as in effect on the day before the date of the
20 enactment of this Act, shall remain in effect.

21 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
22 tion shall be construed to limit the authority of the Presi-
23 dent pursuant to the International Emergency Economic
24 Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

1 **SEC. 5. DETERMINATIONS WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN IRA-**
2 **NIAN PERSONS.**

3 (a) DETERMINATIONS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall, not
5 later than 45 days after the date of the enactment
6 of this Act, determine whether the Iranian persons
7 listed in paragraph (2) are responsible for engaging
8 in activities described in section 1 of Executive
9 Order 13611 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to
10 Blocking Property of Persons Threatening the
11 Peace, Security, or Stability of Yemen).

12 (2) IRANIAN PERSONS LISTED.—The Iranian
13 persons listed in this paragraph are the following:

14 (A) Members of the Supreme National Se-
15 curity Council.

16 (B) The Minister of Intelligence and Secu-
17 rity.

18 (C) The Commander of the Iran's Revolu-
19 tionary Guard Corps.

20 (D) The Commander of the Iran's Revolu-
21 tionary Guard Corps, Qods Force.

22 (E) The Minister of Defense.

23 (F) Minister of Foreign Affairs.

24 (G) Any other Iranian person that the
25 President determines is appropriate.

26 (3) REPORT.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall
2 submit to the appropriate congressional com-
3 mittees a report that contains—

4 (i) the determinations made under
5 paragraph (1) together with the reasons
6 for those determinations; and

7 (ii) an identification of the Iranian
8 persons that the President determines are
9 responsible for engaging in activities de-
10 scribed in section 1(c) of Executive Order
11 13611.

12 (B) FORM.—A report submitted under
13 subparagraph (A) shall be submitted in unclas-
14 sified form but may contain a classified annex.

15 (b) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—The President shall
16 impose the sanctions described in section 1 of Executive
17 Order 13611 with respect to each Iranian person identi-
18 fied in the report submitted to the appropriate congres-
19 sional committees under subsection (a)(3).

20 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
22 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
23 mittees” means—

24 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
25 Committee on Ways and Means, and the Com-

1 mittee on Financial Services of the House of
2 Representatives; and

3 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations,
4 the Committee on Finance, and the Committee
5 on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the
6 Senate.

7 (2) ENTITY.—The term “entity”—

8 (A) means a partnership, association, cor-
9 poration, or other organization, group, or sub-
10 group; and

11 (B) includes a governmental entity.

12 **SEC. 6. SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN FOREIGN**
13 **PERSONS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on and after the date
15 that is 120 days after the date of the enactment of this
16 Act, the President shall impose the sanctions described in
17 subsection (c) on a person described in subsection (b).

18 (b) PERSONS DESCRIBED.—A person described in
19 this subsection is a foreign person that the President de-
20 termines knowingly provides significant financial, mate-
21 rial, or technological support for—

22 (1) Ansar Allah in Yemen;

23 (2) a person designated pursuant to an applica-
24 ble Executive order;

1 (3) a person that the President determines is in
2 violation of an applicable United Nations Security
3 Council resolution;

4 (4) an Iranian person identified in the report
5 submitted to the appropriate congressional commit-
6 tees under section 5(a)(3); or

7 (5) a foreign person owned or controlled by a
8 foreign person described in paragraphs (1) through
9 (4).

10 (c) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—The sanctions to be
11 imposed on a person described in subsection (b) are the
12 following:

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall exercise
14 all of the powers granted to the President under the
15 International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50
16 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block
17 and prohibit all transactions in property and inter-
18 ests in property of the person if such property and
19 interests in property are in the United States, come
20 within the United States, or are or come within the
21 possession or control of a United States person.

22 (2) ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMISSION,
23 OR PAROLE.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—An alien who the Sec-
25 retary of State or the Secretary of Homeland

1 Security determines is a foreign person de-
2 scribed in subsection (b) is—

3 (i) inadmissible to the United States;

4 (ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other
5 documentation to enter the United States;
6 and

7 (iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted
8 or paroled into the United States or to re-
9 ceive any other benefit under the Immigra-
10 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et
11 seq.).

12 (B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

13 (i) IN GENERAL.—Any visa or other
14 documentation issued to an alien who is a
15 foreign person described in subsection (b),
16 regardless of when such visa or other docu-
17 mentation was issued, shall be revoked and
18 such alien shall be denied admission to the
19 United States.

20 (ii) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—A rev-
21 ocation under clause (i)—

22 (I) shall take effect immediately;

23 and

24 (II) shall automatically cancel
25 any other valid visa or documentation

1 that is in the possession of the alien
2 who is the subject of such revocation.

3 (3) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NA-
4 TIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.—Sanctions
5 under paragraph (2) shall not apply to an alien if
6 admitting the alien into the United States is nec-
7 essary to permit the United States to comply with
8 the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the
9 United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26,
10 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947,
11 between the United Nations and the United States,
12 or other applicable international obligations.

13 (4) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in
14 subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the Inter-
15 national Emergency Economic Powers Act (50
16 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that knowingly
17 violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or
18 causes a violation of regulations promulgated under
19 subsection (f) to carry out paragraph (1) of this sub-
20 section to the same extent that such penalties apply
21 to a person that commits an unlawful act described
22 in section 206(a) of such Act.

23 (d) IMPLEMENTATION AUTHORITY.—The President
24 may exercise all authorities provided to the President
25 under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emer-

1 gency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704)
2 for purposes of carrying out this Act.

3 (e) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The President shall,
4 not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment
5 of this Act, promulgate regulations as necessary for the
6 implementation of this Act.

7 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) ADMITTED; ALIEN.—The terms “admitted”
9 and “alien” have meanings given those terms in sec-
10 tion 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8
11 U.S.C. 1101).

12 (2) APPLICABLE EXECUTIVE ORDER.—The
13 term “applicable Executive order” means—

14 (A) Executive Order 13611 (50 U.S.C.
15 1701 note; relating to Blocking Property of
16 Persons Threatening the Peace, Security, or
17 Stability of Yemen); or

18 (B) any Executive order adopted on or
19 after the date of the enactment of this Act, to
20 the extent that such Executive order authorizes
21 the imposition of sanctions on persons for con-
22 duct with respect to Yemen.

23 (3) APPLICABLE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY
24 COUNCIL RESOLUTION.—The term “applicable

1 United Nations Security Council resolution”
2 means—

3 (A) United Nations Security Council Reso-
4 lution 2216; or

5 (B) any United Nations Security Council
6 resolution adopted on or after the date of the
7 enactment of this Act that authorizes the impo-
8 sition of sanctions on persons for conduct with
9 respect to Yemen.

10 (4) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
11 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
12 mittees” means—

13 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
14 Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee
15 on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Finan-
16 cial Services of the House of Representatives;
17 and

18 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations,
19 the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
20 Urban Affairs, and the Committee on the Judi-
21 ciary of the Senate.

22 (5) ENTITY.—The term “entity”—

23 (A) means a partnership, association, cor-
24 poration, or other organization, group, or sub-
25 group; and

1 (B) includes a governmental entity.

2 (6) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign per-
3 son” means—

4 (A) an individual who is not a United
5 States person or an alien lawfully admitted for
6 permanent residence into the United States; or

7 (B) a corporation, partnership, or other
8 entity which is not a United States person.

9 (7) PERSON.—The term “person” means an in-
10 dividual or entity.

11 (8) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term
12 “United States person” means a United States cit-
13 izen, permanent resident alien, entity organized
14 under the laws of the United States (including for-
15 eign branches), or a person in the United States.

16 **SEC. 7. REPORT ON IRANIAN ACTIVITIES IN YEMEN.**

17 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date
18 of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days there-
19 after for a period not to exceed 5 years, the President shall
20 submit to the appropriate congressional committees a re-
21 port on Iranian activities in Yemen.

22 (b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The report re-
23 quired by subsection (a) shall include a description of the
24 following:

1 (1) Iran’s support for certain Yemeni militias
2 or political parties, including weapons, financing,
3 training, and other forms of material support includ-
4 ing media and communications support.

5 (2) A list of referrals to the relevant United
6 Nations Security Council sanctions committees by
7 the United States Permanent Representative to the
8 United Nations.

9 (c) FORM.—The President may submit the report re-
10 quired by subsection (a) in classified form if the President
11 determines that it is necessary for the national security
12 interests of the United States to do so.

13 (d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “appro-
14 priate congressional committees” means—

15 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
16 Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on
17 Ways and Means, and the Committee on Financial
18 Services of the House of Representatives; and

19 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the
20 Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Fi-
21 nance, and the Committee on Banking, Housing,
22 and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

○