

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9160

To impose sanctions with respect to the system of compensation of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority that supports acts of terrorism.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2024

Mr. LAWLER (for himself, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. RULLI, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. CISCOMANI, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. HERN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. GUEST, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. BABIN, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. SELF, Mr. MAST, and Mr. HILL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Financial Services, 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 with respect to the system of compensation of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority that supports acts of 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 “PLO and PA Terror
3 Payments Accountability Act of 2024”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
6 ings:

7 (1) The Palestine Liberation Organization and
8 the Palestinian Authority provide hundreds of mil-
9 lions of dollars per year in payments, salaries, and
10 benefits to terrorists and the families of terrorists as
11 part of a system compensation that incentivizes, en-
12 courages, rewards, and supports acts of terrorism.

13 (2) The Palestine Liberation Organization and
14 the Palestinian Authority policies, laws, and regula-
15 tions that direct, authorize, enact, facilitate, and im-
16 plement a system of compensation in support of acts
17 of terrorism require payments, salaries, and benefits
18 to terrorists including those who are members and
19 part of organizations designated as foreign terrorist
20 organizations by the Secretary of State under sec-
21 tion 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8
22 U.S.C. 1189), including Hamas and Islamic Jihad,
23 that receive direct support including financial and
24 military assistance from Iran, the leading state
25 sponsor of terrorism in the world.

1 (3) In 2018, Congress passed the Taylor Force
2 Act (title X of division S of Public Law 115–141;
3 132 Stat. 1143) into law that calls on the Palestine
4 Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Author-
5 ity to end their system of compensation that
6 incentivizes, encourages, rewards, and supports acts
7 of terrorism and restricts United States assistance
8 “that directly benefits the Palestinian Authority”
9 unless the Secretary of State certifies to Congress
10 that the Palestine Liberation Organization and the
11 Palestinian Authority have met specific conditions
12 including terminating that system of compensation
13 and revoking the policies, laws, and regulations that
14 authorize and implement the system of compensa-
15 tion.

16 (4) Despite the enactment of the Taylor Force
17 Act, the Palestine Liberation Organization and the
18 Palestinian Authority have continued their system of
19 compensation that incentivizes, encourages, rewards,
20 and supports acts of terrorism.

21 (5) On October 7, 2023, Hamas, Islamic Jihad,
22 and other Gaza-based terrorist organizations at-
23 tacked Israel on Shabbat and during the Jewish hol-
24 iday of Simchat Torah, committing the deadliest at-
25 tack on the Jewish people since the Holocaust.

1 (6) On October 7, 2023, Hamas fired thou-
2 sands of rockets into Israel, deliberately targeting
3 Israeli civilians, and thousands of terrorists invaded
4 Israeli communities—massacring, raping, torturing,
5 decapitating, burning alive, seriously injuring, and
6 kidnapping Israelis and Americans, including men,
7 women, children, babies, and grandparents, and in-
8 cluding Holocaust survivors, with children being
9 murdered in front of their parents and parents being
10 murdered in front of their children.

11 (7) On October 7, 2023, Hamas murdered more
12 than 1,200 who were mostly civilians, and kidnapped
13 more than 240, including Israeli and American men,
14 women, children, babies, and grandparents, and took
15 them to Gaza as hostages.

16 (b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy
17 of the United States to hold the Palestine Liberation Or-
18 ganization and the Palestinian Authority accountable in-
19 cluding through the imposition of sanctions for providing
20 payments, salaries, and benefits to terrorists and the fami-
21 lies of terrorists as part of a system compensation that
22 incentivizes, encourages, rewards, and supports acts of
23 terrorism.

24 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

25 In this Act:

1 (1) ACT OF TERRORISM.—The term “act of ter-
2 rorism”—

3 (A) means an act of international ter-
4 rorism (as defined in section 2331 of title 18,
5 United States Code); and

6 (B) includes the meanings given the terms
7 “terrorist activity” and “engage in terrorist ac-
8 tivity” by section 212(a)(3)(B) of the Immigra-
9 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
10 1182(a)(3)(B)).

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

14 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
15 the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of
16 Representatives; and

17 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations
18 and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
19 Urban Affairs of the Senate.

20 (3) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign per-
21 son” means any person or entity that is not a
22 United States person.

23 (4) KNOWINGLY.—The term “knowingly”, with
24 respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result,
25 means that a person had actual knowledge, or

1 should have known, of the conduct, the cir-
2 cumstance, or the result.

3 (5) SYSTEM OF COMPENSATION.—The term
4 “system of compensation”, with respect to the Pales-
5 tinian Authority and the Palestinian Liberation Or-
6 ganization, means the payments described in sub-
7 paragraph (B) of section 1004(a)(1) of the Taylor
8 Force Act (22 U.S.C. 2378c–1) and the system of
9 compensation described in subparagraph (C) of that
10 section.

11 (6) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term
12 “United States person” means—

13 (A) a United States citizen or an alien law-
14 fully admitted for permanent residence to the
15 United States;

16 (B) an entity organized under the laws of
17 the United States or any jurisdiction within the
18 United States, including a foreign branch of
19 such an entity; or

20 (C) a person in the United States.

21 **SEC. 4. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS ON CERTAIN FOREIGN**
22 **PERSONS SUPPORTING TERRORISM.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
24 date of the enactment of this Act, and an ongoing basis

1 thereafter, the President shall impose the sanctions de-
2 scribed in subsection (b) on—

3 (1) any foreign person that—

4 (A) has served in a position as a represent-
5 ative, minister, official, or employee of the Pal-
6 estine Liberation Organization, the Palestinian
7 Authority, or any other foreign person that has
8 directed, authorized, been responsible for, mate-
9 rially assisted with, enacted, implemented, or
10 otherwise facilitated the Palestine Liberation
11 Organization and the Palestinian Authority sys-
12 tem of compensation supporting acts of ter-
13 rorism; or

14 (B) has provided payments, salaries, and
15 benefits to terrorists and the families of terror-
16 ists as part of the Palestine Liberation Organi-
17 zation and the Palestinian Authority system of
18 compensation supporting acts of terrorism;

19 (2) any entity that directly or indirectly has op-
20 erated, ordered, controlled, directed, or otherwise fa-
21 cilitated the Palestine Liberation Organization and
22 the Palestinian Authority system of compensation
23 supporting acts of terrorism including the Commis-
24 sion of Prisoners and Released Prisoners, the Insti-
25 tute for the Care of the Families of the Martyrs and

1 the Wounded, the Palestine National Fund, National
2 Association of the Families of the Martyrs of Pal-
3 estine, or any successor, agency, instrumentality, or-
4 ganization, or affiliated entities thereof; or

5 (3) any foreign person that has knowingly pro-
6 vided significant financial, technological, or material
7 support and resources support to, or knowingly en-
8 gaged in a significant transaction with a foreign per-
9 son described in subparagraphs (1) or (2).

10 (b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions that
11 shall be imposed with respect to a foreign person described
12 in subsection (a) are the following:

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

23 (2) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR
24 PAROLE.—

1 (A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—An
2 alien described in subsection (a) 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.—An alien described
14 in subsection (a) is subject to revocation of
15 any visa or other entry documentation re-
16 gardless of when the visa or other entry
17 documentation is or was issued.

18 (ii) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revoca-
19 tion under clause (i) shall—

20 (I) take effect immediately; and

21 (II) automatically cancel any
22 other valid visa or entry documenta-
23 tion that is in the alien's possession.

24 (iii) PENALTIES.—The penalties pro-
25 vided for in subsections (b) and (c) of sec-

1 tion 206 of the International Emergency
2 Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705)
3 shall apply to a person that violates, at-
4 tempts to violate, conspires to violate, or
5 causes a violation of this section or any
6 regulations promulgated to carry out this
7 section to the same extent that such pen-
8 alties apply to a person that commits an
9 unlawful act described in section 206(a) of
10 that Act.

11 (c) CONGRESSIONAL REQUESTS.—Not later than 30
12 days after receiving a request from the chairman or rank-
13 ing member of one of the appropriate congressional com-
14 mittees with respect to whether a person meets the criteria
15 of a person described in subsection (a), the President
16 shall—

17 (1) determine if the person meets such criteria;
18 and

19 (2) submit a classified or unclassified report to
20 the chairman or ranking member, that submitted the
21 request with respect to that determination that in-
22 cludes a statement of whether or not the President
23 imposed or intends to impose sanctions with respect
24 to the person.

25 (d) IMPLEMENTATION; REGULATIONS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President may exercise
2 all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205
3 of the International Emergency Economic Powers
4 Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) for purposes of car-
5 rying out this section.

6 (2) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 60 days
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
8 President shall issue such regulations or other guid-
9 ance as may be necessary for the implementation of
10 this section.

11 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 (1) MATERIAL SUPPORT OR RESOURCES.—The
13 term “material support or resources” has the mean-
14 ing given that term in section 2339A(b) of title 18,
15 United States Code.

16 **SEC. 5. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FI-**
17 **NANCIAL INSTITUTIONS THAT FACILITATE**
18 **TRANSACTIONS SUPPORTING TERRORISM.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
20 date of the enactment of this Act, and on an ongoing basis
21 thereafter, the President shall impose the sanctions de-
22 scribed in subsection (c) with respect to each foreign fi-
23 nancial institution that engages in the activities described
24 in subsection (b).

1 (b) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—A foreign financial in-
2 stitution engages in an activity described in this subsection
3 if the institution—

4 (1) processes, participates in, facilitates, or pro-
5 vides a transaction that are payments, salaries, or
6 benefits, or any other conduct described in section
7 4(a); or

8 (2) knowingly conducted or facilitated any sig-
9 nificant financial transaction with any foreign per-
10 son subject to sanctions under section 4(a).

11 (c) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The President shall
12 prohibit the opening, and prohibit or impose strict condi-
13 tions on the maintaining, in the United States of a cor-
14 respondent account or a payable-through account by a for-
15 eign financial institution described in subsection (a).

16 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) CORRESPONDENT ACCOUNT; PAYABLE-
18 THROUGH ACCOUNT.—The terms “correspondent ac-
19 count” and “payable-through account” have the
20 meanings given those terms in section 5318A of title
21 31, United States Code.

22 (2) FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The
23 term “foreign financial institution” has the meaning
24 of that term as determined by the Secretary of the
25 Treasury pursuant to section 104(i) of the Com-

1 prehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Di-
2 vestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8513(i)).

3 **SEC. 6. TERMINATION.**

4 The provisions of this Act shall have no force or effect
5 only if the Secretary of State certifies in writing to the
6 appropriate congressional committees that the Palestine
7 Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority
8 system of compensation providing payments, salaries, and
9 benefits to terrorists and the families of terrorists that
10 incentivizes, encourages, rewards, and supports acts of
11 terrorism as described in this Act, has ceased to be in ef-
12 fect and is no longer taking place.

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