

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3421

To clarify that section 107 of the Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act applies sanctions with respect to unmanned combat aerial vehicles following a 2019 change by the United Nations providing additional clarity to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 16, 2021

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. Risch) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To clarify that section 107 of the Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act applies sanctions with respect to unmanned combat aerial vehicles following a 2019 change by the United Nations providing additional clarity to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms.

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 “Stop Iranian Drones
5 Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) A United Nations General Assembly report
4 entitled, “Continuing operation of the United Na-
5 tions Register of Conventional Arms and its further
6 development” (document A/68/140) and dated July
7 15, 2013, states, in paragraph 45, the following:
8 “The Group noted the discussion of the 2006 Group
9 that category IV already covered armed unmanned
10 aerial vehicles and of the 2009 Group on a proposal
11 to include a new category for such vehicles. The
12 Group reviewed proposals for providing greater clar-
13 ity to category IV. . . .”.

14 (2) Section 107 of the Countering America’s
15 Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (22 U.S.C.
16 9406) requires that the President impose sanctions
17 on any person that the President determines “know-
18 ingly engages in any activity that materially contrib-
19 utes to the supply, sale, or transfer directly or indi-
20 rectly to or from Iran, or for the use in or benefit
21 of Iran, of any battle tanks, armored combat vehi-
22 cles, large caliber artillery systems, combat aircraft,
23 attack helicopters, warships, missiles or missile sys-
24 tems, as defined for the purpose of the United Na-
25 tions Register of Conventional Arms, or related ma-
26 teriel, including spare parts”.

1 (3) In 2019, the United Nations formally
 2 changed the title of category IV of the United Na-
 3 tions Register of Conventional Arms to “Combat air-
 4 craft and unmanned combat aerial vehicles
 5 (UCAV)”.

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

7 It is the policy of the United States to prevent Iran
 8 and terrorist and militia groups aligned with Iran from
 9 acquiring unmanned aerial vehicles, including commer-
 10 cially available component parts that can be used in at-
 11 tacks against United States persons and allies and part-
 12 ners of the United States.

13 **SEC. 4. AMENDMENT TO COUNTERING AMERICA’S ADVER-**
 14 **SARIES THROUGH SANCTIONS ACT RELATING**
 15 **TO SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO IRAN.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 107 of the Countering
 17 America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (22 U.S.C.
 18 9406) is amended—

19 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**EN-**
 20 **FORCEMENT OF ARMS EMBARGOS**” and insert-
 21 ing “**SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO MAJOR**
 22 **CONVENTIONAL ARMS**”; and

23 (2) in subsection (a)(1), by inserting “or un-
 24 manned combat aerial vehicles” after “combat air-
 25 craft”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
 2 for the Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanc-
 3 tions Act is amended by striking the item relating to sec-
 4 tion 107 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 107. Sanctions with respect to major conventional arms.”.

5 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICABILITY.—The amend-
 6 ments made by this section shall—

7 (1) take effect on the date of the enactment of
 8 this Act; and

9 (2) apply with respect to any person that know-
 10 ingly engages, before, on, or after such date of en-
 11 actment, in any activity that materially contributes
 12 to the supply, sale, or transfer of an unmanned com-
 13 bat aerial vehicle (as defined by the United Nations
 14 Register of Conventional Arms)—

15 (A) directly or indirectly to or from Iran;

16 or

17 (B) for the use in or benefit of Iran.

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