

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1226

To require reporting on acts of certain foreign countries on Holocaust era assets and related issues, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2017

Mr. CROWLEY (for himself and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To require reporting on acts of certain foreign countries on Holocaust era assets and related issues, 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 “Justice for Uncompen-
5 sated Survivors Today (JUST) Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. ANNUAL REPORTING ON HOLOCAUST ERA ASSETS**
7 **AND RELATED ISSUES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—For covered countries, the Sec-
9 retary of State shall annually include within either the rel-
10 evant Annual Country Report on Human Rights Prac-

1 tices, the International Religious Freedom Report, or
2 other appropriate report as determined by the Secretary,
3 an assessment and description of the nature and extent
4 of national laws or enforceable policies regarding the iden-
5 tification and the return of or restitution for wrongfully
6 seized or transferred Holocaust era assets and compliance
7 with or progress toward the goals and objectives of the
8 2009 Terezin Declaration on Holocaust Era Assets and
9 Related Issues, including—

10 (1) the return to the rightful owner of any
11 property, including religious or communal property,
12 that was wrongfully seized or transferred;

13 (2) if return of such property is no longer pos-
14 sible, the provision of comparable substitute property
15 or the payment of equitable compensation to the
16 rightful owner in accordance with principles of jus-
17 tice and through an expeditious claims-driven admin-
18 istrative process that is just, transparent, and fair;

19 (3) the use of the Washington Conference Prin-
20 ciples on Nazi-Confiscated Art, agreed to December
21 3, 1998, and the Terezin Declaration on Holocaust
22 Assets and Related Issues, agreed to June 30, 2009,
23 in settling all claims involving publically and pri-
24 vately held movable property;

1 (4) the restitution of heirless property to assist
2 needy Holocaust survivors, and for other purposes;

3 (5) the extent to which such laws and policies
4 are implemented and enforced in practice, including
5 through any applicable administrative or judicial
6 processes; and

7 (6) the mechanism for and demonstrable
8 progress on the resolution of claims for United
9 States citizen Holocaust survivors and United States
10 citizen family members of Holocaust victims.

11 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE OF INCLUSION.—

12 (1) INCLUSION IN ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORT
13 ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES OR INTERNATIONAL
14 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM REPORT.—If the Secretary of
15 State includes the information required under sub-
16 section (a) in the report required under section
17 116(d) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22
18 U.S.C. 2151n(d); commonly referred to as the “An-
19 nual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices”)
20 or the report required under section 102(b) of the
21 International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22
22 U.S.C. 6412(b); commonly referred to as the “Inter-
23 national Religious Freedom Report”), the require-
24 ment to include such information shall apply begin-
25 ning with the first such report under either Act, as

1 the case may be, submitted later than 180 days
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

3 (2) INCLUSION IN OTHER DEPARTMENT OF
4 STATE REPORT.—If the Secretary of State includes
5 the information required under subsection (a) in an
6 existing report of the Department of State other
7 than a report described in paragraph (1), the re-
8 quirement to include such information shall apply
9 beginning with the first such report submitted later
10 than 180 days after the date of the enactment of
11 this Act.

12 (3) INCLUSION IN NEW REPORT.—If the Sec-
13 retary of State includes the information required
14 under subsection (a) in a new report, the Secretary
15 shall submit such report not later than one year
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

17 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
19 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
20 mittees” means—

21 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
22 the Committee on Appropriations of the House
23 of Representatives; and

1 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations
2 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
3 Senate.

4 (2) COVERED COUNTRIES.—The term “covered
5 countries” means signatories to the Terezin Declara-
6 tion on Holocaust Assets and Related Issues, agreed
7 to June 30, 2009, that are determined by the Spe-
8 cial Envoy for Holocaust Issues, in consultation with
9 expert nongovernmental organizations, to be coun-
10 tries of particular concern relative to the issues list-
11 ed in subsection (a).

12 (3) WRONGFULLY SEIZED OR TRANSFERRED.—
13 The term “wrongfully seized or transferred” in-
14 cludes confiscations, expropriations, nationalizations,
15 forced sales or transfers, and sales or transfers
16 under duress during the Holocaust era or the period
17 of Communist rule of a covered country.

○