

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 565

To recognize that Christians and Yazidis in Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, Iran, and Libya are targets of genocide, and to provide for the expedited processing of immigrant and refugee visas for such individuals, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 13, 2017

Mr. ROHRBACHER (for himself, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. BISHOP of Michigan, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, and Mr. GROTHMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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 recognize that Christians and Yazidis in Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, Iran, and Libya are targets of genocide, and to provide for the expedited processing of immigrant and refugee visas for such individuals, 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 “Save Christians from
5 Genocide Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY.**

2 Congress—

3 (1) recognizes that Christians and Yazidis in
4 Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, Iran, and Libya are targets of
5 genocide and encourages other nations to likewise
6 recognize the ongoing genocide and the threat of
7 genocide to these people; and

8 (2) further recognizes that such targets of
9 genocide who are seeking admission to the United
10 States as immigrants or refugees should be given
11 priority and expedited processing.

12 **SEC. 3. EMERGENCY ADMISSION OF REFUGEES AND IMMI-**
13 **GRANTS.**

14 (a) REFUGEES.—

15 (1) EMERGENCY REFUGEE SITUATION DE-
16 SCRIBED.—The persecution of Christians and
17 Yazidis in Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, Iran, and Libya
18 constitutes an unforeseen emergency refugee situa-
19 tion, and the admission of such persecuted individ-
20 uals in response to that situation is of grave human-
21 itarian concern.

22 (2) EXPEDITED PROCESSING.—The Secretary
23 of Homeland Security shall provide for the expedited
24 processing of the visas for aliens described in para-
25 graph (3), and shall ensure that such applications

1 receive first priority among applications for refugee
2 status.

3 (3) ALIENS DESCRIBED.—An alien is described
4 in this paragraph if the alien—

5 (A) is a citizen or national of Iraq, Syria,
6 Pakistan, Iran, or Libya, or in the case of an
7 alien having no nationality, whose country of
8 last habitual residence was Iraq, Syria, Paki-
9 stan, Iran, or Libya;

10 (B) is a member of the Christian or Yazidi
11 community; and

12 (C) is seeking admission to the United
13 States as a refuge under section 207 of the Im-
14 migration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157).

15 (4) QUALIFICATION AS REFUGEES.—For pur-
16 poses of qualifying as a refugee under section 101
17 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
18 1101)—

19 (A) membership in the Christian or Yazidi
20 community shall qualify an alien described in
21 paragraph (3) as a member of a persecuted
22 group; and

23 (B) the requirement that an alien be out-
24 side any country of such person's nationality or,
25 in the case of a person having no nationality,

1 is outside any country in which such person last
2 habitually resided, shall not apply to an alien
3 described in paragraph (3).

4 (b) IMMIGRANTS.—

5 (1) EXPEDITED PROCESSING.—The Secretary
6 of Homeland Security shall provide for the expedited
7 processing of visas for the aliens described in para-
8 graph (2), and shall ensure that such applications
9 receive first priority among applications for immi-
10 grant status.

11 (2) ALIENS DESCRIBED.—An alien is described
12 in this paragraph if the alien—

13 (A) is a citizen or national of Iraq, Syria,
14 Pakistan, Iran, Libya, or in the case of an alien
15 having no nationality, whose country of last ha-
16 bitual residence was Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, Iran,
17 or Libya;

18 (B) is a member of the Christian or Yazidi
19 community; and

20 (C) is seeking admission to the United
21 States as an immigrant under subsection (a) or
22 (b) of section 203 of the Immigration and Na-
23 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153).

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