

117TH CONGRESS H.R. 2113

To impose sanctions with respect to Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 19, 2021

Mr. Steube (for himself, Mr. Wilson of South Carolina, and Mr. Banks) 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 impose sanctions with respect to Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada.

- 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 "Sanctioning Iranian-
- 5 Backed Militia Terrorists Act".
- 6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
- 7 Congress finds the following:
- 8 (1) Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada (KSS) is an Ira-
- 9 nian-backed Iraqi militia founded in 2003 by Abu

- Mustafa al-Sheibani, who was sanctioned on Janu-ary 9, 2008, by the Department of the Treasury "for threatening the peace and stability of Iraq and the Government of Iraq". Sheibani led a network which according to the Department of the Treasury improvised explosive conducted device attacks against United States soldiers in Baghdad.
 - (2) KSS openly recognizes the Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamanei as its spiritual leader.
 - (3) KSS is provided training, funding, and arms by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and IRGC-Quds Forces and works closely with Kata'ib Hezbollah (KH), Lebanese Hezbollah, and Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq (AAH), all of which have been designated as Foreign Terrorist Organizations by the Department of State.
 - (4) KSS has fought under the command of former IRGC-Quds Forces commander Qassem Soleimani. The militia has members who operate as a unit of the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF), which is a formal part of the Iraqi federal government under the authority of the Prime Minister of Iraq and which receives funding from the Iraqi federal government, including salaries.

- 1 (5) Since its founding KSS has deployed forces
 2 to Syria to engaged in military operations sup3 porting the Government of Syria, including
 4 offensives in Daraa, Quneitera, the Damascus sub5 urbs, and the Aleppo countryside.
 - (6) In 2015, KSS threatened to "strike and destroy" Saudi Arabia, saying in a statement: "We in the Sayyid al Shuhada Battalion consider Saudi interests a legitimate and permissible target on all levels, and we will strike and destroy them whenever it pleases us.".
 - (7) In August 2019, Abu Alaa al-Wala'i, a leader of KSS, said that "All Americans will be held hostage by the resistance factions in the event of a war.".
 - (8) On February 14, 2020, the Department of State announced that sanctions were imposed on KSS pursuant to section 3 of the Iran, North Korea, and Syria Nonproliferation Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 note) for engaging in illicit arms transfers to or acquisition from Iran.
 - (9) On February 25, 2021, President Biden ordered airstrikes against infrastructure utilized by Iranian-backed militias in eastern Syria in response to attacks against United States personnel in Iraq.

1 According to the Department of Defense's statement 2 on February 25, 2021, "the strikes destroyed mul-3 tiple facilities located at a border control point used by a number of Iranian-backed militant groups, in-5 cluding Kait'ib Hezbollah (KH) and Kait'ib Sayyid 6 al-Shuhada (KSS).". 7 SEC. 3. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS. 8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to— 10 (1) Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada; and 11 (2) any foreign person that is a member, agent, 12 or affiliate of, or owned or controlled by, Kata'ib 13 Sayyid al-Shuhada. 14 (b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions de-15 scribed in this subsection are— 16 (1) sanctions applicable with respect to a for-17 eign person pursuant to section 7412(b) of the Cae-18 sar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019 (22 U.S.C. 19 8791 note); and 20 (2) sanctions applicable with respect to a for-21 eign person pursuant to Executive Order 13224 (50 22 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property and 23 prohibiting transactions with persons who commit,

threaten to commit, or support terrorism).

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