

115TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

S. 409

To provide that the President must seek congressional approval before engaging members of the United States Armed Forces in military humanitarian operations.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

February 16, 2017

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

A BILL

To provide that the President must seek congressional approval before engaging members of the United States Armed Forces in military humanitarian operations.

- 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 "Military Humanitarian
- 5 Operations Act of 2017".
- 6 SEC. 2. MILITARY HUMANITARIAN OPERATION DEFINED.
- 7 (a) IN GENERAL.—In this Act, the term "military
- 8 humanitarian operation" means a military operation in-
- 9 volving the deployment of members or weapons systems

- 1 of the United States Armed Forces where hostile activities
- 2 are reasonably anticipated and with the aim of preventing
- 3 or responding to a humanitarian catastrophe, including its
- 4 regional consequences, or addressing a threat posed to
- 5 international peace and security. The term includes—
- 6 (1) operations undertaken pursuant to the prin-
- 7 ciple of the "responsibility to protect" as referenced
- 8 in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1674
- 9 (2006);
- 10 (2) operations specifically authorized by the
- 11 United Nations Security Council, or other inter-
- 12 national organizations; and
- 13 (3) unilateral deployments and deployments
- made in coordination with international organiza-
- tions, treaty-based organizations, or coalitions
- formed to address specific humanitarian catas-
- trophes.
- 18 (b) Operations Not Included.—The term "mili-
- 19 tary humanitarian operation" does not mean a military
- 20 operation undertaken for the following purposes:
- 21 (1) Responding to or repelling attacks, or pre-
- venting imminent attacks, on the United States or
- any of its territorial possessions, embassies, or con-
- sulates, or members of the United States Armed
- Forces.

- 1 (2) Direct acts of reprisal for attacks on the 2 United States or any of its territorial possessions, 3 embassies, or consulates, or members of the United 4 States Armed Forces.
 - (3) Invoking the inherent right to individual or collective self-defense in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.
 - (4) Military missions to protect or rescue United States citizens or military or diplomatic personnel abroad.
 - (5) Carrying out treaty commitments to directly aid allies in distress.
 - (6) Humanitarian missions in response to natural disasters where no civil unrest or combat with hostile forces is reasonably anticipated, and where such operation is for not more than 30 days.
 - (7) Actions to maintain maritime freedom of navigation, including actions aimed at combating piracy.
 - (8) Training exercises conducted by the United States Armed Forces abroad where no combat with hostile forces is reasonably anticipated.

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1	SEC. 3. REQUIREMENT FOR CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZA-
2	TION.
3	The President may not deploy members of the United
4	States Armed Forces into the territory, airspace, or waters
5	of a foreign country for a military humanitarian operation
6	not previously authorized by statute unless—
7	(1) the President submits to Congress a formal
8	request for authorization to use members of the
9	Armed Forces for the military humanitarian oper-
10	ation; and
11	(2) Congress enacts a specific authorization for
12	such use of forces.
13	SEC. 4. SEVERABILITY.
14	If any provision of this Act is held to be unconstitu-
15	tional, the remainder of the Act shall not be affected.

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