

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 617

To provide humanitarian assistance and support a democratic transition in Syria, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 19, 2013

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

A BILL

To provide humanitarian assistance and support a democratic transition in Syria, 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 “Syria Democratic
5 Transition Act of 2013”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) In March 2011, peaceful demonstrations in
9 Syria began against the authoritarian rule of Bashar
10 al-Assad. The regime responded with terrible vio-

1 lence against the citizens of Syria, including the use
2 of weapons of war, torture, extrajudicial killings, ar-
3 bitrary executions, sexual violence, and interference
4 with access to medical treatment.

5 (2) In December 2011, the Government of
6 Syria agreed to allow an Arab League observer
7 group into the country to assess the humanitarian
8 and political situation on the ground. However, on
9 January 28, 2012, the League officially ended its
10 observer mission, citing escalating violence and the
11 intransigence of the Assad regime.

12 (3) In February 2012, the group Friends of the
13 Syrian People met in Tunis and issued a declaration
14 demanding, among other things, that the Syrian re-
15 gime “allow free and unimpeded access by the
16 United Nations and humanitarian agencies to carry
17 out a full assessment of needs”.

18 (4) On March 16, 2012, United Nations and
19 League of Arab States Special Envoy Kofi Annan
20 presented a six-point peace plan for Syria that called
21 on the Government of Syria to, among other
22 things—

23 (A) commit to stop the fighting and ur-
24 gently achieve a United Nations-supervised ces-
25 sation of violence;

1 (B) cease military activity in and around
2 civilian population centers;

3 (C) work with the Envoy in an inclusive
4 Syrian-led political process;

5 (D) ensure timely provision of humani-
6 tarian assistance;

7 (E) release arbitrarily detained persons;

8 (F) ensure freedom of movement for jour-
9 nalists; and

10 (G) respect freedom of association and the
11 right to demonstrate peacefully.

12 (5) As of February 2013, the United Nations
13 estimated that nearly 70,000 people have been killed
14 as a result of the violence in Syria.

15 (6) As a result of the violence, the United Na-
16 tions estimates that 4,000,000 people are in need of
17 humanitarian assistance, including access to food,
18 water, shelter, and medical care: the Syrian Arab
19 Red Crescent estimates that, more than 2,500,000
20 are internally displaced in Syria. Basic services such
21 as health care, education, electricity, and water have
22 also been cut off in some parts of the country.

23 (7) Syria faces growing food insecurity, as
24 wheat harvests have declined due to drought. The
25 United Nations has been providing food aid to

1 1,500,000 Syrians since September 2012, with the
2 number of people requiring such aid expected to
3 reach 2,500,000 people in the months following Feb-
4 ruary 2013.

5 (8) Millions of Syrians have fled their homes
6 due to escalating violence. According to the United
7 Nations, there are more than 1,000,000 Syrian refu-
8 gees registered in Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Egypt,
9 and Iraq, and even more who are unregistered. Also
10 according to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, more
11 than 2,500,000 Syrians are displaced within the
12 country. More than three-quarters of refugees and
13 internally displaced persons are women and children,
14 who are particularly vulnerable to economic and
15 physical insecurity.

16 (9) In January 2013, a donor pledging con-
17 ference was held in Kuwait, pledging an additional
18 \$1,500,000,000 in humanitarian assistance to the
19 existing \$1,000,000,000 already provided for Syria.
20 The Governments of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and the
21 United Arab Emirates each pledged \$300,000,000.
22 Kuwait's ambassador to the European Union called
23 it the "largest humanitarian pledging conference in
24 the history of the United Nations". According to the
25 United Nations, only 13 percent of the

1 \$1,500,000,000 pledged in Kuwait has been received
2 to date.

3 (10) Challenges exist to ensure this assistance
4 reaches those who need it. An agreement between
5 the United Nations and the Syrian regime to facili-
6 tate the delivery of humanitarian assistance in the
7 country has allowed aid workers greater access to
8 victims of the conflict. However, staff of the Inter-
9 national Committee of the Red Cross and the Syrian
10 Arab Red Crescent cite security concerns as a major
11 obstacle to aid distribution. The Government of
12 Syria is also refusing to grant visas for aid workers
13 from countries that have criticized the regime, in-
14 cluding the United States, Canada, the United King-
15 dom, and France.

16 (11) Amnesty International's 2012 Annual Re-
17 port on Syria, along with the findings of other
18 human rights groups, details a number of atrocities
19 in Syria. In November 2012, the United Nations
20 Human Rights Council's Independent International
21 Commission of Inquiry indicated that Syria's mili-
22 tary forces have employed "killings, torture, rape
23 and other forms of sexual violence, imprisonment, or
24 other forms of severe deprivation of liberty and en-
25 forced disappearances" to maintain their hold on the

1 country. Human Rights Watch raises concerns that
2 authorities in Syria could choose to kill detainees
3 rather than allow them to be released in the event
4 of a political transition.

5 (12) As of March 2013, according to the De-
6 partment of State, the United States Government
7 has provided nearly \$385,000,000 in humanitarian
8 assistance to support those affected by the violence
9 in Syria. On February 28, 2013, the United States
10 Government announced its plans to provide an addi-
11 tional \$63,000,000 in non-lethal assistance to the
12 Syrian Opposition Coalition and the Supreme Mili-
13 tary Council.

14 (13) On February 18, 2013, the Council of the
15 European Union called on the Syrian regime to
16 allow the delivery of humanitarian assistance to
17 reach all those in need and amended their sanctions
18 against the regime to allow greater non-lethal sup-
19 port and technical assistance to the opposition for
20 the protection of civilians.

21 (14) The February 26, 2013, communique by
22 the Friends of the Syrian People International
23 Working Group on Sanctions “called on all states to
24 take steps, in their own capacity, by imposing, at a
25 minimum, an asset freeze on senior Syrian regime

1 officials involved in the repression, as well as an
2 asset freeze on, and restrictions on transactions with
3 banks tied with the Syrian regime such as the Cen-
4 tral Bank of Syria, the Commercial Bank of Syria
5 and the Syrian International Islamic Bank”.

6 (15) According to the Unclassified Report to
7 Congress on the Acquisition of Technology Relating
8 to Weapons of Mass Destruction and Advanced Con-
9 ventional Munitions Covering 1 January to 31 De-
10 cember 2011, “Syria has had a [chemical weapons]
11 program for many years and has a stockpile of CW
12 agents, which can be delivered by aerial bombs, bal-
13 listic missiles, and artillery rockets.” In a hearing
14 before the Committee on Armed Services of the Sen-
15 ate in March 2012, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of
16 Staff General Martin Dempsey testified that the
17 magnitude of Syria’s chemical weapons arsenal was
18 “100 times more than we experienced in Libya”.
19 The Government of Syria’s stockpiles are thought to
20 include mustard, sarin, and VX gases.

21 (16) There are concerns about the existence of
22 numerous rebel militias and their role in Syria dur-
23 ing a post-transition period. On June 30, 2012, dur-
24 ing an international meeting on Syria in Geneva,
25 Special Envoy Kofi Annan said, “A transition must

1 be implemented in a climate of safety for all, sta-
2 bility and calm, including completion of withdrawals
3 and the disarming, demobilization and reintegration
4 of armed groups.”

5 (17) According to reports, the Government of
6 Iran provides resources and military training to
7 groups such as Jaysh al-Shi’ite. These groups also
8 receive military training from Hezbollah and Iran’s
9 Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

10 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

11 It is the policy of the United States—

12 (1) to strongly condemn the ongoing violence
13 and widespread human rights violations perpetrated
14 against the Syrian people by the regime of President
15 Bashar al-Assad;

16 (2) to support civilians and innocent victims of
17 the conflict in Syria, particularly women and chil-
18 dren who are displaced and vulnerable to physical
19 and psychological exploitation;

20 (3) to assist the people of Syria in meeting
21 basic needs, including access to food, health care,
22 shelter, and clean drinking water;

23 (4) to affirm the neutrality of medical profes-
24 sionals providing humanitarian assistance and health
25 care on a non-political basis and to condemn attacks

1 against such personnel or interference in the provi-
2 sion of medical care;

3 (5) to support efforts of democratically oriented
4 political opposition groups in Syria to agree upon a
5 political transition plan that is inclusive and protects
6 the rights of all minority ethnic groups in the coun-
7 try;

8 (6) to work with the international community,
9 including multilateral organizations and host coun-
10 tries, to support Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Tur-
11 key, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, and other host countries;

12 (7) to welcome the pledges of humanitarian as-
13 sistance made by the Governments of Australia, Bot-
14 swana, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Japan, Repub-
15 lic of Korea, Kuwait, Morocco, New Zealand, Qatar,
16 Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates,
17 and members of the European Union, and to encour-
18 age prompt delivery of those pledges which will con-
19 tribute to meeting the needs of the victims of this
20 conflict, and to encourage all donors to coordinate
21 with the United Nations;

22 (8) to support efforts to identify, recover, and
23 dispose of chemical weapons and other conventional
24 and unconventional weapons stockpiled in Syria;

1 (9) that the National Coalition for Syrian Revo-
2 lutionary and Opposition Forces (SOC) is the sole
3 and legitimate representative of the Syrian people;

4 (10) to support the National Coalition for Syr-
5 ian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces (SOC) ef-
6 forts to establish a transitional government;

7 (11) to support transparent and impartial judi-
8 cial processes, in which Syrians have a leading voice,
9 for all those who have committed gross violations of
10 human rights and international law, while noting
11 that the majority of these violations have been com-
12 mitted by the Assad regime;

13 (12) to help ensure that, once a stable transi-
14 tional government is established in Syria, it is com-
15 mitted to multiparty democracy, open and trans-
16 parent governance, respect for human rights and re-
17 ligious freedom, protection of refugees and asylees,
18 promoting peace and stability with its neighbors, en-
19 hancing the rule of law, and rehabilitating and re-
20 integrating former combatants; and

21 (13) to affirm that the end of the Assad regime
22 is in the national security interests of the United
23 States, as it would weaken the position of Iran and
24 Hezbollah in the region and allow for the return of

1 displaced persons currently seeking refuge in host
2 countries.

3 **SEC. 4. ASSISTANCE TO THE SYRIAN PEOPLE.**

4 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—The President is authorized, not-
5 withstanding any other provision of law, to furnish, on
6 such terms and conditions as the President may deter-
7 mine, assistance in order to—

8 (1) provide enhanced support for humanitarian
9 activities taking place in and outside Syria, including
10 the provision of food, shelter, water, health care, and
11 medical supplies;

12 (2) support efforts for a peaceful resolution of
13 the conflict in Syria as well as the establishment of
14 an inclusive representative form of government in
15 Syria;

16 (3) continue to encourage the participation of
17 all groups, including women, business leaders, civil
18 society organizations, traditional and religious lead-
19 ers, and minority groups in efforts for a peaceful
20 resolution of the conflict and political transition in
21 Syria;

22 (4) encourage the Arab League and other inter-
23 national bodies to insist that transitional and future
24 governments are committed to multiparty democ-
25 racy, open and transparent governance, respect for

1 human rights and religious freedom, ending the vio-
2 lence throughout the country, promoting peace and
3 stability with Syria's neighbors, enhancing the rule
4 of law and combating corruption, and rehabilitating
5 and reintegrating former combatants;

6 (5) contribute seed funding to establish a Syria
7 Reconstruction Fund, which would leverage con-
8 tributions from other international donors and be
9 used for the physical reconstruction and re-establish-
10 ment of basic services in Syria after the cessation of
11 the conflict and the fall of the Assad regime;

12 (6) contribute future capacity building for le-
13 gitimate governing institutions after a political tran-
14 sition takes place in Syria;

15 (7) support post-transition efforts, including
16 programs for demobilizing and reintegrating former
17 combatants; and

18 (8) expand the public awareness-raising cam-
19 paign of the United States Government about
20 United States humanitarian assistance efforts
21 through both English-language and regional tradi-
22 tional media sources, as well as social or new media
23 sources.

24 (b) FUNDING.—

1 (1) FISCAL YEARS 2014 AND 2015.—Of the
2 amounts made available to carry out the Foreign As-
3 sistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) for
4 fiscal years 2014 and 2015, such sums as may be
5 necessary should be allocated for bilateral assistance
6 programs in Syria.

7 (2) FUTURE FUNDING.—It is the sense of Con-
8 gress that the Department of State should submit a
9 budget request for fiscal year 2015 that contains an
10 appropriate increase in bilateral and multilateral as-
11 sistance for Syria based on progress toward accom-
12 plishing the policy objectives described in section 3.

13 (3) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pur-
14 suant to the authorization of appropriations under
15 paragraphs (1) and (2)—

16 (A) are authorized to remain available
17 until expended; and

18 (B) are in addition to funds otherwise
19 available for such purposes.

20 (c) COORDINATION WITH OTHER DONOR NA-
21 TIONS.—The United States should work with other donor
22 nations, on a bilateral and multilateral basis, to increase
23 international contributions to the people of Syria and ac-
24 complish the policy objectives described in section 3.

25 (d) BRANDING REQUIREMENT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—All assistance made available
2 under this section shall be identified as being “From
3 the American People” if the relevant Assistant Sec-
4 retary of State, in consultation with the imple-
5 menting partner, determines that such identification
6 would not—

7 (A) jeopardize the safety or impartiality of
8 implementing partners that deliver the assist-
9 ance;

10 (B) jeopardize the health and safety of the
11 intended beneficiaries;

12 (C) compromise the intrinsic independence
13 or neutrality of a program or materials where
14 implementing partner independence or neu-
15 trality is inherently important to the success of
16 the effort;

17 (D) undermine United States efforts to
18 empower the democratically inclined political
19 opposition; or

20 (E) otherwise render the provision of as-
21 sistance impracticable.

22 (2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this
23 subsection shall be construed as prohibiting the
24 identification of assistance with a contractor or
25 grantee’s own organizational brand or logo, subject

1 to any standards or regulations that the President
2 may establish.

3 (e) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—In cases where the authority
5 in this section is relied upon to overcome applicable
6 restrictions on the provision of assistance to Syria,
7 obligation of such funds shall be subject to the reg-
8 ular 15-day notification procedures.

9 (2) WAIVER.—Notification under paragraph (1)
10 may be waived if failure to do so would pose a sub-
11 stantial risk to human health or welfare, in which
12 case notification shall be provided as early as prac-
13 ticable, but in no event later than 3 days after tak-
14 ing the action to which such notification requirement
15 was applicable. The waiver shall be accompanied by
16 an explanation of the emergency circumstances ne-
17 cessitating the waiver.

18 **SEC. 5. INCREASING ASSISTANCE TO THE NATIONAL COALI-**
19 **TION FOR SYRIAN REVOLUTIONARY AND OP-**
20 **POSITION FORCES.**

21 (a) AUTHORITY.—The President is authorized, not-
22 withstanding any other provision of law, to furnish assist-
23 ance, and make contributions, in order to—

24 (1) increase the provision of training to and
25 build the capacity of the Syrian Opposition Coalition

1 and the Assistance Coordination Unit to enhance
2 their ability to provide basic services to the people
3 of Syria and establish the beginnings of a func-
4 tioning government;

5 (2) provide training in international humani-
6 tarian law and the law of armed conflict to members
7 of the Syrian Opposition Coalition and Free Syrian
8 Army;

9 (3) provide non-lethal equipment and training,
10 including training and equipment related to chemical
11 weapons and equipment such as body armor, night
12 vision equipment, and communications equipment, to
13 vetted members of the Free Syrian Army, to im-
14 prove their ability to conduct operations and provide
15 security for convoys of humanitarian assistance in-
16 side Syria;

17 (4) provide special operations training to vetted
18 members of the Free Syrian Army; and

19 (5) allocate additional Department of State per-
20 sonnel to conduct thorough vetting of opposition in-
21 dividuals receiving aid.

22 (b) FUNDING FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014 AND 2015.—
23 Of the amounts made available to carry out the Foreign
24 Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) for fiscal
25 years 2014 and 2015, such sums as may be necessary

1 should be allocated to build the capacity of the Coalition
 2 for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces.

3 (c) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—In cases where the authority
 5 in this section is relied upon to overcome applicable
 6 restrictions on the provision of assistance to Syria,
 7 obligation of such funds shall be subject to the reg-
 8 ular 15-day notification procedures.

9 (2) WAIVER.—Notification under paragraph (1)
 10 may be waived if failure to do so would pose a sub-
 11 stantial risk to human health or welfare, in which
 12 case notification shall be provided as early as prac-
 13 ticable, but in no event later than 3 days after tak-
 14 ing the action to which such notification requirement
 15 was applicable. The waiver shall be accompanied by
 16 an explanation of the emergency circumstances ne-
 17 cessitating the waiver.

18 **SEC. 6. IMPOSITION AND CONDITIONAL TERMINATION OF**
 19 **SANCTIONS.**

20 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 (1) ACCOUNT; CORRESPONDENT ACCOUNT; PAY-
 22 ABLE-THROUGH ACCOUNT.—The terms “account”,
 23 “correspondent account”, and “payable-through ac-
 24 count” have the meanings given those terms in sec-
 25 tion 5318A of title 31, United States Code.

1 (2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
 2 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
 3 mittees” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Finance, the Com-
 5 mittee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Af-
 6 fairs, and the Committee on Foreign Relations
 7 of the Senate; and

8 (B) the Committee on Ways and Means,
 9 the Committee on Financial Services, and the
 10 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of
 11 Representatives.

12 (3) FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The
 13 term “foreign financial institution” has the meaning
 14 of that term as determined by the Secretary of the
 15 Treasury pursuant to section 104(i) of the Com-
 16 prehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Di-
 17 vestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8513(i)).

18 (b) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO
 19 THE CENTRAL BANK OF SYRIA AND OTHER SYRIAN FI-
 20 NANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President should pro-
 22 hibit the opening, and prohibit or impose strict con-
 23 ditions on the maintaining, in the United States of
 24 a correspondent account or a payable-through ac-
 25 count by a foreign financial institution that the

1 President determines has knowingly conducted any
2 significant arms sale to the Government of Bashar
3 al Assad through the Central Bank of Syria or an-
4 other Syrian financial institution designated by the
5 Secretary of the Treasury for the imposition of sanc-
6 tions pursuant to the International Emergency Eco-
7 nomic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) or any
8 Syrian individual or entity added after April 28,
9 2011, and before the date of the enactment of this
10 Act to the Specially Designated Nationals List main-
11 tained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the
12 Department of the Treasury.

13 (2) EXCEPTION FOR HUMANITARIAN TRANS-
14 ACTIONS.—The President may not impose sanctions
15 under paragraph (1) on a foreign financial institu-
16 tion for engaging in a transaction with the Central
17 Bank of Syria for the sale of food, medicine, medical
18 devices, donations intended to relieve human suf-
19 fering, or non-lethal aid to the people of Syria.

20 (3) APPLICABILITY.—Paragraph (1) applies
21 with respect to financial transactions commenced on
22 or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

23 (4) WAIVER.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—The President may
25 waive the application of paragraph (1) with re-

1 spect to a foreign financial institution for a pe-
2 riod of not more than 180 days, and may renew
3 that waiver for additional periods of not more
4 than 180 days, if the President determines and
5 reports to the appropriate congressional com-
6 mittees that the waiver is necessary to the na-
7 tional security interest of the United States.

8 (B) FORM.—A report submitted pursuant
9 to subparagraph (A) shall be submitted in un-
10 classified form, but may contain a classified
11 annex.

12 (c) TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The requirements under
14 subsection (b) to impose sanctions shall no longer
15 have force or effect with respect to Syria if the
16 President determines and certifies to the appropriate
17 congressional committees that the termination of
18 such sanctions is in the national security interest of
19 the United States.

20 (2) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—Upon mak-
21 ing the certification described in paragraph (1), the
22 President shall submit to the appropriate congres-
23 sional committees a report assessing—

24 (A) the extent to which Bashar al-Assad or
25 members of his regime control Syrian territory;

1 (B) the existence and capability of a demo-
2 cratic transitional government to control Syrian
3 territory and provide basic services to the Syr-
4 ian people;

5 (C) whether the transitional government
6 supports acts of terrorism or has committed
7 human rights violations; and

8 (D) whether the transitional government is
9 cooperating with the United States Government
10 in locating, securing, and removing conventional
11 and unconventional weapons.

12 **SEC. 7. INCREASING CONTRIBUTIONS AND OTHER HUMANI-**
13 **TARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE**
14 **THROUGH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President should instruct the
16 United States permanent representative or executive direc-
17 tor, as the case may be, to the United Nations voluntary
18 agencies, including the World Food Program, the United
19 Nations Development Program, United Nations Children’s
20 Fund, and the United Nations High Commissioner for
21 Refugees, and other appropriate international organiza-
22 tions such as the International Committee of the Red
23 Cross to use the voice and vote of the United States to
24 support additional humanitarian and development assist-
25 ance for the people of Syria in order to accomplish the

1 policy objectives described in section 3. The President is
2 authorized, notwithstanding any other provision of law, to
3 permit the United States to vote and take action in favor
4 of the provision of assistance for Syria at any inter-
5 national financial institution in order to support the tran-
6 sition to peace, democracy, and sustainable development
7 in Syria.

8 (b) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—In cases where the authority
10 in this section is relied upon to overcome applicable
11 restrictions on the provision of assistance to Syria,
12 obligation of such funds shall be subject to the reg-
13 ular 15-day notification procedures.

14 (2) WAIVER.—Notification under paragraph (1)
15 may be waived if failure to do so would pose a sub-
16 stantial risk to human health or welfare, in which
17 case notification shall be provided as early as prac-
18 ticable, but in no event later than 3 days after tak-
19 ing the action to which such notification requirement
20 was applicable. The waiver shall be accompanied by
21 an explanation of the emergency circumstances ne-
22 cessitating the waiver.

1 **SEC. 8. INCREASING BILATERAL ASSISTANCE TO COUN-**
2 **TRIES THAT HOST SYRIAN REFUGEES.**

3 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—The President should increase bi-
4 lateral funding to countries, including Iraq, Jordan, Tur-
5 key, Egypt, and Lebanon, which have experienced an in-
6 flux of refugees from Syria.

7 (b) **FUNDING FOR FISCAL YEARS 2014 AND 2015.**—
8 Of the amounts made available to carry out the Foreign
9 Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) for fiscal
10 years 2014 and 2015, such sums as may be necessary
11 should be allocated for bilateral refugee assistance pro-
12 grams in the countries surrounding Syria.

13 **SEC. 9. COORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE**
14 **FOR SYRIA.**

15 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 30 days after
16 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
17 State should work with the appropriate United Nations
18 agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross,
19 regional organizations, nongovernmental organizations,
20 and the broader international community to convene an
21 international donors group to maximize resources and effi-
22 ciently provide humanitarian assistance to the people of
23 Syria.

24 (b) **PURPOSE.**—The Secretary of State should take
25 steps to ensure donor groups coordinate resources for the
26 following activities in Syria and the region:

1 (1) Providing humanitarian relief to civilians
2 impacted by the violence in Syria and Syrian refu-
3 gees in host countries.

4 (2) Supporting inclusive post-transitional gov-
5 ernance and the establishment of the rule of law.

6 (3) Supporting disarmament, demobilization,
7 and reintegration of combatants and members of mi-
8 litias.

9 (c) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Department of State
10 shall submit a report on the specific programs, projects,
11 and activities funded by the donors group and imple-
12 mented by humanitarian organizations during the pre-
13 ceding year, including an evaluation of the results of such
14 programs, projects, and activities.

15 **SEC. 10. SECURING WEAPONS IN SYRIA.**

16 (a) TRANSITION PLAN.—The United States should
17 work with regional partners to develop a plan, to be imple-
18 mented in the event of a political transition, to—

19 (1) identify and secure conventional and uncon-
20 ventional weapons stockpiles in Syria;

21 (2) recover and dispose of all unconventional
22 weapons stockpiled in Syria, with particular atten-
23 tion to chemical weapons; and

1 (3) prevent the illicit sale or transfer of conven-
2 tional and unconventional weapons out of Syria in
3 order to preclude regional weapons proliferation.

4 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
5 gress that the Department of State should submit a budg-
6 et request for fiscal year 2014 that contains an increase
7 in bilateral nonproliferation, demining, and anti-terrorism
8 assistance for Syria toward accomplishing the policy objec-
9 tives described in this section.

10 (c) AUTHORITY.—The President is authorized, not-
11 withstanding any other provision of law, to furnish, assist-
12 ance in order to conduct activities in support of the pur-
13 poses of this section.

14 (d) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—In cases where the authority
16 in this section is relied upon to overcome applicable
17 restrictions on the provision of assistance to Syria,
18 obligation of such funds shall be subject to the reg-
19 ular 15-day notification procedures.

20 (2) WAIVER.—Notification under paragraph (1)
21 may be waived if failure to do so would pose a sub-
22 stantial risk to human health or welfare, in which
23 case notification shall be provided as early as prac-
24 ticable, but in no event later than 3 days after tak-
25 ing the action to which such notification requirement

1 was applicable. The waiver shall be accompanied by
2 an explanation of the emergency circumstances ne-
3 cessitating the waiver.

4 **SEC. 11. REPORT ON HUMANITARIAN AND STABILIZATION**
5 **EFFORTS IN SYRIA.**

6 Not later than 60 days after the date of the enact-
7 ment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the President
8 shall submit to Congress a detailed report on the imple-
9 mentation of this Act, including a description of—

10 (1) progress made as a result of humanitarian
11 and stabilization efforts, including refugee assistance
12 to those affected by the violence in Syria;

13 (2) progress made toward establishing an inclu-
14 sive, democratic government that protects the rights
15 of all Syrians; and

16 (3) key challenges, gaps, and obstacles to fur-
17 ther enhancing stability and peace in Syria, includ-
18 ing between Syria and its neighbors.

○