

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2501

To authorize assistance to conduct military or paramilitary operations in  
Syria, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2013

Mr. ROONEY (for himself and Mr. McCAUL) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To authorize assistance to conduct military or paramilitary  
operations 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 “Congressional Ac-  
5 countability and Oversight in Syria Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Section 502B of the Foreign Assistance Act  
9 of 1961 mandates that no security assistance may  
10 be provided to any country the government of which

1 engages in a consistent pattern of gross violations of  
2 internationally recognized human rights.

3 (2) Section 523 of the Foreign Assistance Act  
4 of 1961 states that none of the funds appropriated  
5 or otherwise made available pursuant to this Act  
6 shall be obligated to finance indirectly any assistance  
7 or reparations to Cuba, Iraq, Libya, Iran, Syria,  
8 North Korea, or Sudan, unless the President of the  
9 United States certifies that the withholding of these  
10 funds is contrary to the national interest of the  
11 United States.

12 (3) Under the terms of Resolution 2043 of  
13 April 21, 2012, the United Nations Security Council  
14 established a United Nations Supervision Mission in  
15 Syria (UNSMIS), for an initial period of 90 days,  
16 under the command of a Chief Military Observer,  
17 comprising an initial deployment of up to 300 un-  
18 armed military observers as well as an appropriate  
19 civilian component to fulfill the following mandate:  
20 To monitor a cessation of armed violence in all its  
21 forms by all parties and to monitor and support the  
22 full implementation of the UNSMIS' six-point plan.

23 (4) On June 15, 2012, UNSMIS suspended its  
24 activities owing to an intensification of armed vio-  
25 lence across the country.

1           (5) On July 20, 2012, the Security Council ex-  
2           tended UNSMIS for a final period of 30 days. Ac-  
3           cording to Resolution 2059, the Council would only  
4           consider further extensions to the mission “in the  
5           event that the Secretary-General reports and the Se-  
6           curity Council confirms the cessation of the use of  
7           heavy weapons and a reduction in the level of vio-  
8           lence sufficient by all sides” to allow UNSMIS to  
9           implement its mandate.

10           (6) As the conditions set by the Security Coun-  
11           cil had not been met, UNSMIS mandate ended at  
12           midnight on August 19, 2012.

13           (7) The al-Nusrah Front is designated by the  
14           Department of State as a Foreign Terrorist Organi-  
15           zation.

16 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

17           It is the sense of Congress that—

18           (1) the Government of Syria should imme-  
19           diately cease the use of heavy weapons in population  
20           centers;

21           (2) all parties within Syria should bring about  
22           a cessation of armed violence in all its forms;

23           (3) the Secretary of State should continue to  
24           list Syria as a state sponsor of terrorism;

1           (4) in accordance with international law, the  
2       Government of Syria should immediately cease the  
3       use of chemical weapons; and

4           (5) if the President considers initiating military  
5       action, including imposition of a “no fly” zone or  
6       other military operations on Syrian territory, air-  
7       space, or waters—

8           (A) according to article I, section 8, of the  
9       United States Constitution, “The Congress  
10      shall have Power To declare War, grant Letters  
11      of Marque and Reprisal, and make Rules con-  
12      cerning Captures on Land and Water.”;

13          (B) according to the War Powers Resolu-  
14      tion, “The constitutional powers of the Presi-  
15      dent as Commander-in-Chief to introduce  
16      United States Armed Forces into hostilities, or  
17      into situations where imminent involvement in  
18      hostilities is clearly indicated by the cir-  
19      cumstances, are exercised only pursuant to (1)  
20      a declaration of war, (2) specific statutory au-  
21      thorization, or (3) a national emergency created  
22      by attack upon the United States, its territories  
23      or possessions, or its armed forces.”; and

24          (C) the President should adhere to the  
25      War Powers Resolution and obtain specific stat-

1           utory authorization for the use of the United  
2           States Armed Forces in response to the war in  
3           Syria.

4 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE TO CONDUCT**  
5                   **MILITARY OR PARAMILITARY OPERATIONS IN**  
6                   **SYRIA.**

7       (a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—Notwithstanding any other  
8       provision of law, no assistance of any kind may be pro-  
9       vided by any United States Government agency for the  
10      purpose, or which would have the effect, of promoting,  
11      augmenting, directly or indirectly, the capacity of any na-  
12      tion, group, organization, movement, or individual to con-  
13      duct military or paramilitary operations in Syria, unless  
14      and until Congress expressly authorizes such assistance by  
15      law enacted after the date of enactment of this section.

16      (b) **EXCEPTION.**—Subsection (a) does not apply to  
17      assistance that is solely provided for humanitarian pur-  
18      poses.

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