

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

**IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—115th Cong., 1st Sess.**

**H. R. 390**

To provide emergency relief for victims of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes in Iraq and Syria, for accountability for perpetrators of these crimes, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_ and  
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended  
to be proposed by Mr. CORKER

Viz:

1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the fol-  
2 lowing:

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Iraq and Syria Genocide Emergency Relief and Account-  
6 ability Act of 2017”.

7 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for  
8 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Findings; sense of Congress.

Sec. 3. Definitions.

Sec. 4. Statement of policy.

Sec. 5. Actions to promote accountability in Iraq and Syria for acts of genocide,  
crimes against humanity, and war crimes.

Sec. 6. Identification of and assistance to address humanitarian, stabilization, and recovery needs of certain persons in Iraq and Syria.

Sec. 7. Reports.

Sec. 8. Technical assistance authorized.

Sec. 9. Department of State Rewards for Justice Program.

Sec. 10. Syria Study Group.

Sec. 11. Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic.

Sec. 12. Prohibition on additional funding.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq and  
4 Syria are persecuted groups. The Secretary of State  
5 of State declared on March 17, 2016, and August  
6 15, 2017, that the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria  
7 (ISIS), is responsible for genocide, crimes against  
8 humanity, and other atrocity crimes against several  
9 of these groups, including Christians and Yezidis.

10 (2) The Independent International Commission  
11 of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic stated in its  
12 February 3, 2016, report, “The Government has  
13 committed the crimes against humanity of extermi-  
14 nation, murder, rape or other forms of sexual vio-  
15 lence, torture, imprisonment, enforced disappearance  
16 and other inhuman acts. Based on the same con-  
17 duct, war crimes have also been committed. Both  
18 Jabhat Al-Nusra and some anti-Government armed  
19 groups have committed the war crimes of murder,  
20 cruel treatment, and torture.”.

1           (3) The International Criminal Investigative  
2 Training Assistance Program and the Office of  
3 Overseas Prosecutorial Development Assistance and  
4 Training of the Department of Justice have provided  
5 technical assistance to governmental judicial and law  
6 enforcement entities in Iraq, including with funding  
7 support from the Department of State.

8           (4) According to the Department of State's an-  
9 nual reports on international religious freedom—

10           (A) the number of Christians living in Iraq  
11 has dropped from an estimated 800,000 to  
12 1,400,000 in 2002 to fewer than 250,000 in  
13 2016; and

14           (B) the number of Yezidis living in Iraq  
15 has dropped from 500,000 in 2013 to between  
16 350,000 and 400,000 in 2016.

17           (5) The annual reports on international reli-  
18 gious freedom also suggest that—

19           (A) Christian communities living in Syria,  
20 which had accounted for between 8 and 10 per-  
21 cent of Syria's total population in 2010, are  
22 now considerably smaller as a result of the civil  
23 war; and

1           (B) the population of approximately  
2           80,000 Yezidis in 2010 may now be larger be-  
3           cause of refugees from Iraq.

4           (6) On December 21, 2016, the United Nations  
5           General Assembly adopted a resolution to establish  
6           the International, Impartial and Independent Mech-  
7           anism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution  
8           of Those Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes  
9           under International Law Committed in the Syrian  
10          Arab Republic since March 2011.

11          (7) Local communities and entities have sought  
12          to mitigate the impact of violence directed against  
13          religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq and Syria, in-  
14          cluding the Chaldean Catholic Archdiocese of Erbil  
15          (Kurdistan Region of Iraq), which has used private  
16          funds to provide assistance to internally displaced  
17          Christians, Yezidis, and Muslims throughout the  
18          greater Erbil region, while growing needs and dimin-  
19          ishing resources have made it increasingly difficult  
20          to continue these efforts.

21          (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Congress—

22                  (1) strongly condemns—

23                  (A) the ongoing violence, the use of chem-  
24                  ical weapons, targeting of civilian populations  
25                  with barrel, incendiary, and cluster bombs and

1           SCUD missiles, and the systematic gross  
2           human rights violations carried out by the Gov-  
3           ernment of Syria and pro-government forces  
4           under the direction of President Bashar al-  
5           Assad; and

6                   (B) all abuses committed by violent ex-  
7           tremist groups and other combatants involved  
8           in the civil war in Syria;

9           (2) expresses its support for the people of Syria  
10          seeking democratic change;

11          (3) urges all parties to the conflict—

12                   (A) to immediately halt indiscriminate at-  
13          tacks on civilians;

14                   (B) to allow for the delivery of humani-  
15          tarian and medical assistance; and

16                   (C) to end sieges of civilian populations;

17          (4) calls on the President to support efforts in  
18          Syria, and on the part of the international commu-  
19          nity, to ensure accountability for war crimes, crimes  
20          against humanity, and genocide committed during  
21          the conflict; and

22          (5) supports the request in United Nations Se-  
23          curity Council Resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165  
24          (2014), and 2191 (2014) for the Secretary-General  
25          to regularly report to the Security Council on the

1 implementation of the resolutions, including para-  
2 graph 2 of Resolution 2139, which “demands that  
3 all parties immediately put an end to all forms of vi-  
4 olence [and] cease and desist from all violations of  
5 international humanitarian law and violations and  
6 abuses of human rights”.

7 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

9 (1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-**  
10 **TEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
11 mittees” means—

12 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of  
13 the Senate;

14 (B) the Committee on Armed Services of  
15 the Senate;

16 (C) the Committee on Appropriations of  
17 the Senate;

18 (D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
19 the House of Representatives;

20 (E) the Committee on Armed Services of  
21 the House of Representatives; and

22 (F) the Committee on Appropriations of  
23 the House of Representatives.

1           (2) GENOCIDE.—The term “genocide” means  
2 any offense described in section 1091(a) of title 18,  
3 United States Code.

4           (3) HUMANITARIAN, STABILIZATION, AND RE-  
5 COVERY NEEDS.—The term “humanitarian, sta-  
6 bilization, and recovery needs”, with respect to an  
7 individual, includes water, sanitation, hygiene, food  
8 security, nutrition, shelter, housing, reconstruction,  
9 medical, education, and psychosocial needs.

10          (4) HYBRID TRIBUNAL.—The term “hybrid tri-  
11 bunal” means a temporary criminal tribunal that in-  
12 volves a combination of domestic and international  
13 lawyers, judges, and other professionals to prosecute  
14 individuals suspected of committing war crimes,  
15 crimes against humanity, or genocide.

16          (5) INTERNATIONALIZED DOMESTIC COURT.—  
17 The term “internationalized domestic court” means  
18 a domestic court with the support of international  
19 advisers.

20          (6) TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE.—The term “tran-  
21 sitional justice” means the range of judicial, non-  
22 judicial, formal, informal, retributive, and restorative  
23 measures employed by countries transitioning out of  
24 armed conflict or repressive regimes—

25               (A) to redress legacies of atrocities; and

1 (B) to promote long-term, sustainable  
2 peace.

3 (7) WAR CRIME.—The term “war crime” has  
4 the meaning given the term in section 2441(c) of  
5 title 18, United States Code.

6 **SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

7 It is the policy of the United States to ensure that  
8 assistance for humanitarian, stabilization, and recovery  
9 needs of individuals who are or were nationals and resi-  
10 dents of Iraq or Syria, and of communities from those  
11 countries, is directed toward those individuals and commu-  
12 nities with the greatest need, including those individuals  
13 from communities of religious and ethnic minorities.

14 **SEC. 5. ACTIONS TO PROMOTE ACCOUNTABILITY IN IRAQ**  
15 **AND SYRIA FOR ACTS OF GENOCIDE, CRIMES**  
16 **AGAINST HUMANITY, AND WAR CRIMES.**

17 (a) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of State and the  
18 Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-  
19 national Development are authorized, in consultation with  
20 the government of Iraq, to provide assistance, including  
21 financial and technical assistance, as may be necessary  
22 and appropriate to support the efforts of entities, includ-  
23 ing nongovernmental organizations with expertise in inter-  
24 national criminal investigations and law, to undertake the  
25 following activities to address crimes of genocide, crimes



1 against humanity, or war crimes in Iraq by ISIS since  
2 January 2014:

3 (1) Conducting criminal investigations.

4 (2) Developing indigenous investigative and ju-  
5 dicial skills, including by partnering, directly men-  
6 toring, and providing equipment and infrastructure,  
7 as necessary, to effectively adjudicate cases in ac-  
8 cordance with due process and respect for the rule  
9 of law.

10 (3) Collecting and preserving evidence and the  
11 chain of evidence, including for use in prosecutions  
12 in domestic courts, hybrid tribunals, and inter-  
13 nationalized domestic courts, consistent with the ac-  
14 tivities described in subsection (b).

15 (b) ACTIONS BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.—The Sec-  
16 retary of State, in consultation with the Attorney General,  
17 the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of Na-  
18 tional Intelligence, and the Director of the Federal Bureau  
19 of Investigation, shall encourage governments of foreign  
20 countries to include in appropriate security databases and  
21 security screening procedures of such countries informa-  
22 tion to identify suspected ISIS members for whom credible  
23 evidence exists of having committed acts of genocide,  
24 crimes against humanity or war crimes in Iraq and Syria  
25 since January 2014, and to prosecute such individuals for

1 acts of genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes,  
2 as appropriate.

3 (c) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out subsection (a),  
4 the Secretary of State shall consult with, and consider  
5 credible information from, entities described in such sub-  
6 section.

7 **SEC. 6. IDENTIFICATION OF AND ASSISTANCE TO ADDRESS**  
8 **HUMANITARIAN, STABILIZATION, AND RE-**  
9 **COVERY NEEDS OF CERTAIN PERSONS IN**  
10 **IRAQ AND SYRIA.**

11 (a) IDENTIFICATION.—The Secretary of State, in  
12 consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Adminis-  
13 trator of the United States Agency for International De-  
14 velopment, and the Director of National Intelligence, shall  
15 seek to identify—

16 (1) the threats of persecution and other early-  
17 warning indicators of genocide, crimes against hu-  
18 manity, and war crimes against individuals—

19 (A) who are or were nationals and resi-  
20 dents of Iraq or Syria, are members of a reli-  
21 gious or ethnic minority group in either such  
22 country, and against whom ISIS has committed  
23 acts of genocide, crimes against humanity, or  
24 war crimes since January 2014, as determined  
25 by the Secretary of State; or

1 (B) who are members of another religious  
2 or ethnic minority group in Iraq or Syria that  
3 the Secretary of State has identified as a per-  
4 secuted group;

5 (2) the religious and ethnic minority groups in  
6 Iraq or Syria identified pursuant to paragraph (1)  
7 that are at risk of forced migration within or across  
8 the borders of Iraq, Syria, or a country of first asy-  
9 lum, and the primary reasons for such risk;

10 (3) the humanitarian, stabilization, and recov-  
11 ery needs of individuals and groups described in  
12 paragraphs (1) and (2), including the assistance pro-  
13 vided by the United States and by the United Na-  
14 tions, respectively, to address the humanitarian, sta-  
15 bilization, and recovery needs, and mitigate the risks  
16 of forced migration, of individuals and groups de-  
17 scribed in paragraphs (1) and (2), and assistance  
18 provided through the Funding Facility for Imme-  
19 diate Stabilization and Funding Facility for Ex-  
20 panded Stabilization; and

21 (4) to the extent practicable and appropriate,  
22 the entities, including faith-based entities, that are  
23 providing assistance to address the humanitarian,  
24 stabilization, and recovery needs of individuals and  
25 groups described in paragraphs (1) and (2), and the

1 extent to which the United States is providing as-  
2 sistance to or through such entities.

3 (b) ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION.—In carrying out  
4 subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall consult with,  
5 and consider credible information from—

6 (1) individuals and groups described in para-  
7 graphs (1) and (2) of such subsection; and

8 (2) entities described in paragraph (4) of such  
9 subsection.

10 (c) ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of State and the  
11 Administrator of the United States Agency for Inter-  
12 national Development are authorized to provide assist-  
13 ance, including financial and technical assistance as nec-  
14 essary and appropriate, to support entities described in  
15 subsection (a)(4) that the Secretary and the Adminis-  
16 trator determine have access, and are capable of effectively  
17 managing and delivering such assistance, to the individ-  
18 uals and groups described in paragraphs (1) and (2) of  
19 such subsection.

20 **SEC. 7. REPORTS.**

21 (a) IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.—Not later than 90  
22 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
23 retary of State shall submit a report to the appropriate  
24 congressional committees that includes—

1           (1) a detailed description of the efforts taken,  
2           and efforts proposed to be taken, to implement the  
3           provisions of this Act;

4           (2) an assessment of—

5                   (A) the feasibility and advisability of pros-  
6                   ecuting suspected ISIS members for whom  
7                   credible evidence exists of having committed  
8                   acts of genocide, crimes against humanity, or  
9                   war crimes in Iraq since January 2014, in do-  
10                  mestic courts in Iraq, hybrid tribunals, and  
11                  internationalized domestic courts; and

12                   (B) the measures needed—

13                           (i) to ensure effective criminal inves-  
14                           tigations of such individuals; and

15                           (ii) to effectively collect and preserve  
16                           evidence and preserve the chain of evi-  
17                           dence, for prosecution;

18           (3) recommendations for legislative remedies  
19           and administrative actions to facilitate the imple-  
20           mentation of this Act.

21           (b) SUPPORT FOR THE INVESTIGATION AND PROS-  
22           ECUTION OF WAR CRIMES.—Not later than 120 days  
23           after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
24           of State shall submit a report to the appropriate congres-  
25           sional committees that includes—

1           (1) a detailed description of the efforts taken,  
2           and efforts proposed to be taken, by the Secretary  
3           of State to implement subsections (a) and (b) of sec-  
4           tion 5; and

5           (2) an assessment of—

6                   (A) the feasibility and advisability of pros-  
7                   ecuting suspected ISIS members for whom  
8                   credible evidence exists of having committed  
9                   genocide, crimes against humanity, or war  
10                  crimes in Iraq since January 2014, in domestic  
11                  courts in Iraq, hybrid tribunals, and inter-  
12                  nationalized domestic courts; and

13                   (B) the capacity building, and other meas-  
14                   ures, needed to ensure effective criminal inves-  
15                   tigations of such individuals.

16           (c) REPORT ON ACCOUNTABILITY FOR WAR CRIMES,  
17           CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY, AND GENOCIDE IN  
18           SYRIA.—

19           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after  
20           the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
21           of State shall submit a report to the appropriate  
22           congressional committees on war crimes, crimes  
23           against humanity, and genocide in Syria. The Sec-  
24           retary of State shall submit another such report not

1 later than 180 days after the Secretary determines  
2 that the violence in Syria has ceased.

3 (2) ELEMENTS.—The reports submitted under  
4 paragraph (1) shall include—

5 (A) a description of alleged war crimes,  
6 crimes against humanity, and genocide per-  
7 petrated during the civil war in Syria, includ-  
8 ing—

9 (i) incidents that may constitute war  
10 crimes, crimes against humanity, or geno-  
11 cide committed by the regime of President  
12 Bashar al-Assad and all forces fighting on  
13 its behalf;

14 (ii) incidents that may constitute war  
15 crimes, crimes against humanity, or geno-  
16 cide committed by violent extremist  
17 groups, anti-government forces, and any  
18 other combatants in the conflict;

19 (iii) any incidents that may violate the  
20 principle of medical neutrality and, if pos-  
21 sible, the identification of the individual or  
22 individuals who engaged in or organized  
23 such incidents; and

24 (iv) if possible, a description of the  
25 conventional and unconventional weapons

1           used for such crimes and the origins of  
2           such weapons; and

3           (B) a description and assessment by the  
4           Office of Global Criminal Justice of the Depart-  
5           ment of State, the United States Agency for  
6           International Development, the Department of  
7           Justice, and other appropriate agencies of pro-  
8           grams that the United States Government has  
9           undertaken to ensure accountability for war  
10          crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide  
11          perpetrated against the people of Syria by the  
12          regime of President Bashar al-Assad, violent  
13          extremist groups, and other combatants in-  
14          volved in the conflict, including programs—

15                 (i) to train investigators within and  
16                 outside of Syria on documenting, inves-  
17                 tigating, developing findings of, and identi-  
18                 fying and locating alleged perpetrators of  
19                 war crimes, crimes against humanity, or  
20                 genocide, including—

21                         (I) the number of United States  
22                         Government or contract personnel  
23                         currently designated to work full-time  
24                         on such issues; and



1 (II) identifying the authorities  
2 and appropriations being used to sup-  
3 port such training efforts;

4 (ii) to promote and prepare for a  
5 transitional justice process or processes for  
6 the perpetrators of war crimes, crimes  
7 against humanity, and genocide in Syria  
8 beginning in March 2011;

9 (iii) to document, collect, preserve,  
10 and protect evidence of war crimes, crimes  
11 against humanity, and genocide in Syria,  
12 including support for Syrian, foreign, and  
13 international nongovernmental organiza-  
14 tions, and other entities, including the  
15 International, Impartial and Independent  
16 Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation  
17 and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for  
18 the Most Serious Crimes under Inter-  
19 national Law Committed in the Syrian  
20 Arab Republic since March 2011 and the  
21 Independent International Commission of  
22 Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic; and

23 (iv) to assess the influence of account-  
24 ability measures on efforts to reach a nego-

1                   tiated settlement to the Syrian conflict  
2                   during the reporting period.

3                   (3) FORM.—The reports required under para-  
4                   graph (1) may be submitted in unclassified or classi-  
5                   fied form, but shall include a publicly available  
6                   annex.

7                   (d) TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE STUDY.—Not later than  
8                   180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
9                   Secretary of State (acting through appropriate officials  
10                  and offices, which may include the Office of Global Crimi-  
11                  nal Justice), after consultation with the Department of  
12                  Justice, the United States Agency for International Devel-  
13                  opment, and other appropriate Federal agencies, shall—

14                  (1) complete a study of the feasibility and desir-  
15                  ability of potential transitional justice mechanisms  
16                  for Syria, including a hybrid tribunal, to address  
17                  war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide  
18                  perpetrated in Syria beginning in March 2011; and

19                  (2) submit a detailed report of the results of  
20                  the study conducted under paragraph (1), including  
21                  recommendations on which transitional justice mech-  
22                  anisms the United States Government should sup-  
23                  port, why such mechanisms should be supported,  
24                  and what type of support should be offered, to—

1 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of  
2 the Senate;

3 (B) the Committee on Appropriations of  
4 the Senate;

5 (C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
6 the House of Representatives; and

7 (D) the Committee on Appropriations of  
8 the House of Representatives.

9 (e) FORM.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in sub-  
11 section ()(3), each report required under this section  
12 shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may  
13 contain a classified annex, if necessary.

14 (2) PROTECTION OF WITNESSES AND EVI-  
15 DENCE.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary  
16 of State shall take due care to ensure that the iden-  
17 tification of witnesses and physical evidence are not  
18 publicly disclosed in a manner that might place such  
19 persons at risk of harm or encourage the destruction  
20 of evidence by the Government of Syria, violent ex-  
21 tremist groups, anti-government forces, or any other  
22 combatants or participants in the conflict.

23 **SEC. 8. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State (acting  
25 through appropriate officials and offices, which may in-

1 clude the Office of Global Criminal Justice), after con-  
2 sultation with the Department of Justice and other appro-  
3 priate Federal agencies, is authorized to provide appro-  
4 priate assistance to support entities that, with respect to  
5 war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide per-  
6 petrated by the regime of President Bashar al-Assad, all  
7 forces fighting on its behalf, and all non-state armed  
8 groups fighting in the country, including violent extremist  
9 groups in Syria beginning in March 2011—

10 (1) identify suspected perpetrators of war  
11 crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide;

12 (2) collect, document, and protect evidence of  
13 crimes and preserve the chain of custody for such  
14 evidence;

15 (3) conduct criminal investigations;

16 (4) build Syria's investigative and judicial ca-  
17 pacities and support prosecutions in the domestic  
18 courts of Syria, provided that President Bashar al-  
19 Assad is no longer in power;

20 (5) support investigations by third-party states,  
21 as appropriate; or

22 (6) protect witnesses that may be helpful to  
23 prosecutions or other transitional justice mecha-  
24 nisms.

1           (b) **ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary of  
2 State, after consultation with appropriate Federal agen-  
3 cies and the appropriate congressional committees, and  
4 taking into account the findings of the transitional justice  
5 study required under section 7(d), is authorized to provide  
6 assistance to support the creation and operation of transi-  
7 tional justice mechanisms, including a potential hybrid tri-  
8 bunal, to prosecute individuals suspected of committing  
9 war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide in Syria  
10 beginning in March 2011.

11           (c) **BRIEFING.**—The Secretary of State shall provide  
12 detailed, biannual briefings to the appropriate congres-  
13 sional committees describing the assistance provided to en-  
14 tities described in subsection (a).

15 **SEC. 9. DEPARTMENT OF STATE REWARDS FOR JUSTICE**  
16 **PROGRAM.**

17           Section 36(b)(10) of the State Department Basic Au-  
18 thorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2708 (b)(10)) is amended  
19 by inserting “(including war crimes, crimes against hu-  
20 manity, or genocide committed in Syria beginning in  
21 March 2011)” after “genocide”.

22 **SEC. 10. SYRIA STUDY GROUP.**

23           (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is hereby established a  
24 working group to be known as the “Syria Study Group”  
25 (in this section referred to as the “Group”).

1           (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Group is to exam-  
2 ine and make recommendations with respect to the mili-  
3 tary and diplomatic strategy of the United States with re-  
4 spect to the conflict in Syria.

5           (c) COMPOSITION.—

6           (1) MEMBERSHIP.—The Group shall be com-  
7 posed of 8 members, who shall be appointed as fol-  
8 lows:

9                   (A) One member appointed by the chair of  
10 the Committee on Armed Services of the Sen-  
11 ate.

12                   (B) One member appointed by the ranking  
13 minority member of the Committee on Armed  
14 Services of the Senate.

15                   (C) One member appointed by the chair of  
16 the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Sen-  
17 ate.

18                   (D) One member appointed by the ranking  
19 minority member of the Committee on Foreign  
20 Relations of the Senate.

21                   (E) One member appointed by the chair of  
22 the Committee on Armed Services of the House  
23 of Representatives.

1           (F) One member appointed by the ranking  
2 minority member of the Committee on Armed  
3 Services of the House of Representatives.

4           (G) One member appointed by the chair of  
5 the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House  
6 of Representatives.

7           (H) One member appointed by the ranking  
8 minority member of the Committee on Foreign  
9 Affairs of the House of Representatives.

10 (2) CO-CHAIRS.—

11           (A) The chair of the Committee on Armed  
12 Services of the Senate, the chair of the Com-  
13 mittee on Armed Services of the House of Rep-  
14 resentatives, the chair of the Committee on  
15 Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the chair  
16 of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the  
17 House of Representatives shall jointly designate  
18 1 member of the Group to serve as co-chair of  
19 the Group.

20           (B) The ranking minority member of the  
21 Committee on Armed Services of the Senate,  
22 the ranking minority member of the Committee  
23 on Armed Services of the House of Representa-  
24 tives, the ranking minority member of the Com-  
25 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and

1           the ranking minority member of the Committee  
2           on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representa-  
3           tives shall jointly designate 1 member of the  
4           Group to serve as co-chair of the Group.

5           (3) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

6           Members shall be appointed for the life of the  
7           Group. Any vacancy in the Group shall be filled in  
8           the same manner as the original appointment.

9           (d) DUTIES.—

10           (1) REVIEW.—The Group shall review the cur-  
11           rent situation with respect to the United States mili-  
12           tary and diplomatic strategy in Syria, including a re-  
13           view of current United States objectives in Syria and  
14           the desired end state in Syria.

15           (2) ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—

16           The Group shall—

17           (A) conduct a comprehensive assessment of  
18           the current situation in Syria, its impact on  
19           neighboring countries, resulting regional and  
20           geopolitical threats to the United States, and  
21           current military, diplomatic, and political ef-  
22           forts to achieve a stable Syria; and

23           (B) develop recommendations on a military  
24           and diplomatic strategy for the United States  
25           with respect to the conflict in Syria.



1 (e) COOPERATION FROM UNITED STATES GOVERN-  
2 MENT.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Group shall receive the  
4 full and timely cooperation of the Secretary of De-  
5 fense, the Secretary of State, and the Director of  
6 National Intelligence in providing the Group with  
7 analyses, briefings, and other information necessary  
8 for the discharge of the duties of the Group.

9 (2) LIAISON.—The Secretary of Defense, the  
10 Secretary of State, and the Director of National In-  
11 telligence shall each designate at least 1 officer or  
12 employee of their respective organizations to serve as  
13 a liaison officer to the Group.

14 (f) REPORT.—

15 (1) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than November  
16 30, 2018, the Group shall submit a report to the  
17 President, the Secretary of Defense, the Committee  
18 on Armed Services of the Senate, the Committee on  
19 Armed Services of the House of Representatives, the  
20 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and  
21 the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of  
22 Representatives that describes the findings, conclu-  
23 sions, and recommendations of the Group under this  
24 section, including—

1 (A) an assessment of the current security,  
2 political, humanitarian, and economic situation  
3 in Syria;

4 (B) an assessment of the current participa-  
5 tion and objectives of various external actors in  
6 Syria;

7 (C) an assessment of the consequences of  
8 continued conflict in Syria;

9 (D) recommendations for a resolution of  
10 the conflict in Syria, including options for a  
11 gradual political transition to a post-Assad  
12 Syria and actions necessary for reconciliation;

13 (E) a roadmap for a United States and co-  
14 alition strategy to reestablish security and gov-  
15 ernance in Syria, including recommendations  
16 for the synchronization of stabilization, develop-  
17 ment, counterterrorism, and reconstruction ef-  
18 forts; and

19 (F) any other matters with respect to the  
20 conflict in Syria that the Group considers ap-  
21 propriate.

22 (2) INTERIM BRIEFING.—Not later than June  
23 30, 2018, the Group shall provide a briefing to the  
24 Committee on Armed Services of the Senate, the  
25 Committee on Armed Services of the House of Rep-

1        representatives, the Committee on Foreign Relations of  
2        the Senate, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs  
3        of the House of Representatives on the status of its  
4        review and assessment under subsection (d) and a  
5        discussion of any interim recommendations devel-  
6        oped by the Group as of the date of the briefing.

7            (3) FORM OF REPORT.—The report submitted  
8        to Congress under paragraph (1) shall be submitted  
9        in unclassified form, but may include a classified  
10       annex.

11        (g) FACILITATION.—The United States Institute of  
12        Peace shall take appropriate actions to facilitate the  
13        Group in the discharge of its duties under this section.

14        (h) TERMINATION.—The Group shall terminate on  
15        the date that is 6 months after the date on which the  
16        Group submits the report required under subsection  
17        (f)(1).

18        **SEC. 11. INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF**  
19    **INQUIRY ON THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC.**

20        The Secretary of State, acting through the United  
21        States Permanent Representative to the United Nations,  
22        should use the voice, vote, and influence of the United  
23        States at the United Nations to advocate that the United  
24        Nations Human Rights Council, while the United States  
25        remains a member, annually extend the mandate of the

1 Independent International Commission of Inquiry in the  
2 Syrian Arab Republic until the Commission has completed  
3 its investigation of all alleged violations of international  
4 human rights laws beginning in March 2011 in the Syrian  
5 Arab Republic.

6 **SEC. 12. PROHIBITION ON ADDITIONAL FUNDING.**

7 No additional funds are authorized to be appro-  
8 priated to carry out this Act. This Act shall be carried  
9 out using amounts otherwise authorized and appropriated.