

S._____, Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act of 2017
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Sec. 2. Findings

This section includes a number of Congressional findings regarding:

- The nature of genocide and other atrocity crimes committed globally;
- The commitment to prevent acts of genocide and other atrocity crimes when feasible as a centerpiece of foreign policy by consecutive administrations; and
- Methods by which the United States can strengthen its prevention efforts.

Sec. 3. Definitions

This section includes definitions of terms used in the bill, including “genocide,” “atrocity crimes,” “mass atrocities,” “peacebuilding,” and “war crime.”

Sec. 4. Statement of Policy

This section reinforces preventing genocide and other atrocity crimes as a core national security interest and a core moral responsibility of the United States. To effectively improve capacities to identify, prevent, and respond to drivers of atrocity crimes and violent conflict, it is necessary to create a government-wide strategy that includes: strengthening the diplomatic, early warning, conflict prevention, and mitigation capacities of the U.S. Government; improving the use of foreign assistance to respond early and effectively to address the roots of such violence and support transitional justice measures; and supporting international atrocities prevention, conflict prevention, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding mechanisms. Support for this strategy may include a variety of unilateral, bilateral, and multilateral mechanisms that prioritize timely, preventative diplomatic efforts placing the United States as a key leader in promoting international efforts to end crises peacefully.

Sec. 5. Mass Atrocities Task Force

This section directs the President to instruct the Secretary of State to establish a Mass Atrocities Task Force chaired by the Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights, or another position of equivalent rank, who will report to the Secretary.

Subsection 5(c) authorizes the duties of the Task Force to include: ensuring that atrocity crimes and the risk of atrocity crimes throughout the world are adequately considered and addressed; facilitating the development and execution of policies and tools to enhance the capacity of the United States to prevent and respond to atrocity crimes worldwide; monitoring developments throughout the world that heighten the risk of atrocity crimes; analyzing and closely reviewing specific atrocity crimes threats or situations, identifying any gaps in U.S. policies concerning particular regions or countries; and conducting consultations with representative of NGOs dedicated to atrocity crimes prevention and response and other appropriate parties.

Subsection 5(d) outlines the composition of the Task Force to include representatives from 11 designated agencies and any others the Chair may appoint.

Subsections 5(e) and 5(f) mandate the following reporting requirements:

- Within 180 days after the passage of the legislation, and every 3 years thereafter for the following 6 years, the Secretary, in consultation with the Task Force, shall submit a report to specified Congressional committees. This report will include an evaluation of and recommendations to strengthen U.S. efforts to respond to atrocity crimes and other mass violence; an assessment of funding expended on atrocity crimes prevention activities, including transitional justice measures; and recommendations to ensure shared responsibility through international and regional organizations.
- The Chair and members of the Task Force shall provide briefings to specific Congressional committees.

Subsection 5(g) authorizes necessary appropriations to carry out the above.

Sec. 6. Training of Foreign Service Officers in Conflict and Mass Atrocity Prevention

This section amends the Foreign Service Act of 1980 to include training for Foreign Service Officers to recognize patterns of escalations and early warning signs of potential atrocity crimes or violence, methods of early action and response, and transitional justice measures.

Sec. 7. Report of the Director of National Intelligence

Each year, the Director of National Intelligence testifies to Congress on threats to United States national security. This section encourages the Director to include, in the testimony, a review of countries and regions at risk of atrocity crimes and, whenever possible, specific mention of countries and region at immediate risk of atrocity crimes.

Sec. 8. The Complex Crises Fund

The Complex Crises Fund (CCF) is authorized to provide assistance to programs and activities that aim to prevent or respond to complex crises overseas, including potential atrocity crimes.

The purpose of assistance is to:

- mitigate or respond to emerging or unforeseen complex crises;

- prevent, counter, and respond to the rise of violent conflict and instability, including atrocity crimes; and
- advance the consolidation of peace and democracy.

Subsection 8(c) includes limitations of the CCF.

Subsection 8(d) requires the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to submit notifications to relevant Congressional committees no later than 5 days before amounts from the CCF are obligated.

