To impose additional sanctions with respect to serious human rights abuses by the Government of Iran, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. Rubio introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on __________________

A BILL

To impose additional sanctions with respect to serious human rights abuses by the Government of Iran, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Iran Human Rights and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act”.

SEC. 2. UNITED STATES POLICY ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLA-
TIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Iran is a member of the United Nations,

 voted for the Universal Declaration of Human
Rights, and is a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, among other international human rights treaties.

(2) In violation of these and other international obligations, Iranian regime officials continue to violate the fundamental human rights of the people of Iran.

(3) The Iranian regime persecutes ethnic and religious minority groups, such as the Baha’is, Christians, and Sufi, Sunni, and dissenting Shi’a Muslims (such as imprisoned Ayatollah Hossein Kazemeyni Boroujerdi), through harassment, arrests, and imprisonment, during which detainees have routinely been beaten, tortured, and killed.

(4) The 2016 Department of State Human Rights Report on Iran noted “severe restrictions on civil liberties, including the freedoms of assembly, association, speech, religion, and press. Other human rights problems included abuse of due process combined with use of capital punishment for crimes that do not meet the requirements of due process, as well as cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment; and disregard for the physical integrity of persons, whom authorities arbitrarily and unlawfully detained, tortured, or killed.”.
(5) Over a 4-month period in 1988, the Iranian regime carried out the barbaric mass executions of thousands of political prisoners.

(6) In 1999, the Iranian regime brutally suppressed a student revolt that was one of the largest mass uprisings up until that point in Iran since 1979.

(7) Following voting irregularities that resulted in the 2009 election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the Iranian regime brutally suppressed peaceful political dissent from wide segments of civil society during the Green Revolution in a cynical attempt to retain its undemocratic grip on power.

(8) Since February 2011 the leaders of Iran’s Green Movement, former Prime Minister Mir Hossein Mousavi, his wife Dr. Zahra Rahnavard, and former Speaker of the Majles (parliament) Mehdi Karroubi, have lived under strict house arrest, ordered by Iran’s Supreme National Security Council.

(9) In response to anti-government demonstrations by citizens of Iran that began in the city of Mashhad on December 28, 2017, and rapidly spread throughout urban and rural populations across Iran
in the following weeks, the Iranian regime arrested
many hundreds of Iranians and killed dozens more.

(10) The Iranian regime, in addition to using
lethal force and widespread detentions, shut down
mobile Internet access and worked to block access to
social media applications, including Telegram,
Instagram, and Twitter, that citizens of Iran used to
share information and to organize and publicize the
protests.

(11) In those demonstrations, which constitute
the most significant anti-government demonstrations
in Iran since June 2009, citizens of Iran protested
against the system of entrenched corruption and im-
poverishment in Iran, as well as the Iranian regime’s
foreign policy of supporting terrorism.

(12) Senior governmental, military, and public
security officials in Iran have continued ordering,
controlling, and committing egregious human rights
violations and abuses that, in many cases, represent
official policies of the Iranian regime.

(13) The 2016 Department of State Human
Rights Report on Iran noted, “According to the
press, NGOs, and the testimony of former prisoners,
authorities often held political prisoners in solitary
confinement for extended periods, denying them due
process and access to legal representation. Political prisoners were also at greater risk of torture and abuse in detention and often mixed with the general prison population despite the political crimes bill stipulation that they have their own facilities.”.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the United States should—

(1) deny the Government of Iran the ability to continue to oppress the people of Iran and to use violence and executions to silence pro-democracy protestors;

(2) support efforts made by the people of Iran to promote the establishment of basic freedoms that build the foundation for the emergence of a freely elected, open, non-corrupt, and democratic political system;

(3) help the people of Iran produce, access, and share information freely and safely via the Internet and other media.

(c) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy of the United States to stand with the people of Iran who seek the opportunity to freely elect a government of their choosing, and increase the utilization of all available authorities to impose sanctions on officials of the Govern-
ment of Iran and other individuals responsible for serious
human rights abuses.

SEC. 3. DETERMINATIONS WITH RESPECT TO IMPOSITION
OF SANCTIONS ON CERTAIN PERSONS RE-
SPONSIBLE FOR OR COMPLICIT IN HUMAN
RIGHTS ABUSES, ENGAGING IN CENSORSHIP,
ENGAGING IN THE DIVERSION OF GOODS IN-
TENDED FOR THE PEOPLE OF IRAN, OR EN-
GAGING IN CORRUPTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the
date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter
(or more frequently if the President determines it appro-
priate based on new information received by the Presi-
dent) for the following 4 years, the President shall submit
to the appropriate congressional committees a report con-
taining a determination of whether any senior officials of
the Government of Iran or other Iranian persons meet the
criteria described in—

(1) section 105(b), 105A(b), 105B(b), or
105C(b) of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Ac-
countability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C.
8514(b), 8514a(b), 8514b(b), or 8514e(b)), or sec-
tion 105D(b) of such Act (as added by section 5 of
this Act); or
(2) paragraph (3) or (4) of section 1263(a) of the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114–328; 22 U.S.C. 2656 note).

(b) FORM OF REPORT; PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—

(1) FORM.—Each report required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The unclassified portion of a report required by subsection (a) shall be posted on a publicly available Internet website of the Department of the Treasury—

(A) in English, Farsi, Arabic, and Azeri; and

(B) in precompressed, easily downloadable versions that are made available in all appropriate formats.

(c) SOURCES OF INFORMATION.—In preparing a report required by subsection (a), the President may utilize any credible publication, database, Internet-based resource, and any credible information compiled by any governmental agency, nongovernmental organization, or other entity provided to or made available to the President.

(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—
(1) the Committee on Financial Services and
the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of
Representatives; and
(2) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
Urban Affairs and the Committee on Foreign Rela-
tions of the Senate.

SEC. 4. UNITED STATES POLICY ON HOSTAGE-TAKING BY
THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Since 1979 the Iranian regime has engaged
in various destabilizing activities that undermine the
national security of the United States and its allies
and partners.

(2) These activities include the hostage-taking
or prolonged arbitrary detentions of United States
citizens and other persons with connections to Can-
ada, the United Kingdom, France, and other coun-
tries allied with the United States.

(3) The Iranian regime has detained on fab-
ricated claims a significant number of United States
citizens, including Siamak and Baquer Namazi and
Xiyue Wang, as well as United States legal perma-
nent resident, Nizar Zakka, in violation of inter-
national legal norms.
(4) The Iranian regime has not provided information on the whereabouts of or assistance in ensuring the prompt and safe return of Robert Levinson, despite repeated promises to do so, after he was kidnapped while visiting Iran’s Kish Island on March 9, 2007—making him the longest held hostage in United States history.

(5) The Iranian regime reportedly uses hostages as leverage against foreign investors to exact business concessions in foreign investment deals.

(6) The type of hostage-taking enterprise put in place by the Iranian regime is a crime against humanity and a violation of customary international law.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the President should fully utilize all necessary and appropriate measures to prevent the Iranian regime from engaging in hostage-taking or the prolonged arbitrary detention of United States citizens or aliens lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence, to include—

(A) the use of extradition to try and convict those individuals responsible for ordering or
controlling such hostage-taking or arbitrary de-
tention; and

(B) the use of the Department of Hom-
eland Security’s Human Rights Violators and
War Crimes Unit to target such individuals;
and

(2) the United States should encourage its al-
lies and other affected countries to pursue the crimi-
nal prosecution and extradition of state and non-
state actors in Iran that assist in or benefit from
such hostage-taking to prevent such state and non-
state actors from engaging in this practice in the fu-
ture.

(e) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy
of the United States Government not to pay ransom or
release prisoners for the purpose of securing the release
of United States citizens or aliens lawfully admitted to the
United States for permanent residence taken hostage
abroad.

(d) STRATEGY.—Not later than 120 days after the
date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State
shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign
Relations of the Senate a report that contains a strategy
to prevent elements of the Iranian regime from engaging
in hostage-taking or the prolonged arbitrary detention of
United States citizens or aliens lawfully admitted to the
United States for permanent residence.

SEC. 5. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO PER-
SONS WHO ENGAGE IN CERTAIN ACTIONS
AGAINST UNITED STATES CITIZENS OR IRA-
NIAN PERSONS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
gress that the United States should coordinate with allies
and partners of the United States and other countries
whose citizens may be subject to politically motivated de-
tention or trial in Iran, to apply sanctions against persons
that are responsible for or complicit in, or responsible for
ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, such deten-
tion or trial.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the Comprehensive Iran
Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 is
amended by inserting after section 105C (22 U.S.C.
8514c) the following:
"SEC. 105D. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO
PERSONS WHO ENGAGE IN CERTAIN ACTIONS AGAINST UNITED STATES CITIZENS OR IRANIAN PERSONS.

(a) In General.—The President shall impose sanctions described in section 105(c) with respect to each person on the list required by subsection (b).

(b) List of Persons Who Engage in Certain Actions Against United States Citizens or Iranian Persons.—

(1) In General.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a list of persons that the President determines, based on credible evidence are responsible for or complicit in, or responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, the politically motivated intimidation, abuse, extortion, or detention or trial in Iran of citizens of the United States or aliens lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence.

(2) Updates of List.—The President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an updated list under paragraph (1)—
“(A) each time the President is required to submit an updated list to those committees under section 105(b)(2)(A); and

“(B) as new information becomes available.

“(3) FORM OF REPORT; PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—

“(A) Form.—The list required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

“(B) Public Availability.—The unclassified portion of the list required by paragraph (1) shall be posted on a publicly available Internet website of the Department of the Treasury and of the Department of State.

“(c) Termination of Sanctions.—The provisions of this section shall terminate on the date that is 30 days after the date on which the President—

“(1) determines and certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the Government of Iran is no longer complicit in or responsible for the wrongful and unlawful detention of United States citizens or aliens lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence; and
“(2) submits to the appropriate congressional committees the certification described in section 105(d).”.

(c) Clerical Amendment.—The table of contents for the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 105C the following new item:

“Sec. 105D. Imposition of sanctions with respect to persons who engage in certain actions against United States citizens or Iranian persons.”.

(d) Amendments to General Provisions.—Section 401 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8551) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “and 305” and inserting “, 105D, and 305”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) by striking “or 105C(a)” and inserting “, 105C(a), or 105D(a)”; and

(B) by striking “or 105C(b)” and inserting “105C(b), or 105D(b)”.

SEC. 6. Consolidation of Certain Reports.

(a) In General.—Any and all reports required to be submitted to Congress under this Act, any amendment made by this Act, or a covered provision of law that are subject to a deadline for submission consisting of the same
unit of time may be consolidated into a single report that is submitted to Congress pursuant to such deadline.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—A consolidated report under subsection (a) shall contain all information required under all applicable provisions of this Act, amendments made by this Act, covered provisions of law, and other provisions of law.

(c) COVERED PROVISIONS OF LAW.—In this section, the term “covered provision of law” means the following:


(3) The Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8701 et seq.).

(4) The Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8801 et seq.).