

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

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To support stabilization and lasting peace in northeast Nigeria and areas affected by Boko Haram through development of a regional strategy to support multilateral efforts to successfully protect civilians and eliminate the threat posed by Boko Haram, to support efforts to rescue female students abducted in Nigeria on April 14, 2014, as well as other kidnapping victims of Boko Haram, and to provide funds for humanitarian relief, development programs, transitional justice, and victim support, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 23, 2015

Ms. WILSON of Florida introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To support stabilization and lasting peace in northeast Nigeria and areas affected by Boko Haram through development of a regional strategy to support multilateral efforts to successfully protect civilians and eliminate the threat posed by Boko Haram, to support efforts to rescue female students abducted in Nigeria on April 14, 2014, as well as other kidnapping victims of Boko Haram, and to provide funds for humanitarian relief, development programs, transitional justice, and victim support, 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 “Boko Haram Disar-
5 mament and Northeast Nigeria Recovery Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) On the night of April 14, 2014, 276 female
9 students, most of them between 15 and 18 years old,
10 were abducted by Boko Haram from the Chibok
11 Government Girls Secondary School, a boarding
12 school located in Borno state in the Federal Repub-
13 lic of Nigeria.

14 (2) All public secondary schools in Borno state
15 were closed in March 2014 because of increasing at-
16 tacks by Boko Haram that killed hundreds of stu-
17 dents, but the schoolgirls returned to school, despite
18 the potential dangers, determined to pursue their
19 education.

20 (3) Boko Haram has claimed responsibility for
21 subsequent kidnappings in the region.

22 (4) Boko Haram leaders have threatened to sell
23 the kidnapped schoolgirls into slavery and according
24 to reports, has previously kept female hostages as
25 slaves and committed sexual violence against them.

1 (5) Boko Haram seems determined to carry out
2 sophisticated and deadly attacks and to expand its
3 area of operation.

4 (6) Boko Haram has targeted schools, mosques,
5 churches, villages, and agricultural centers, as well
6 as government facilities, in hopes of creating an Is-
7 lamic state in northern Nigeria.

8 (7) There are estimates that Boko Haram has
9 killed more than 4,000 people since 2011, and more
10 than 2,000 people this year alone.

11 (8) There is a possibility that many of the girls
12 may have been taken into neighboring countries.

13 (9) Boko Haram and other terrorist organiza-
14 tions pose a growing threat to United States inter-
15 ests in the region, as well as to broader regional
16 peace and security.

17 (10) In an effort to locate the kidnapped
18 schoolgirls, the United States authorized the deploy-
19 ment of up to 80 military personnel to Chad in
20 order to help with intelligence and surveillance.

21 (11) The United States military have provided
22 training, equipment, and other support for counter-
23 terrorism units in the Sahel region to combat Al
24 Qaeda affiliates and related groups in Africa.

1 (12) Cameroon, Niger, and Chad have deployed
2 troops in an effort to secure their borders against
3 Boko Haram.

4 (13) The United States named several individ-
5 uals linked to Boko Haram as Specially Designated
6 Global Terrorists in 2012 and designated Boko
7 Haram as a Foreign Terrorist Organization in No-
8 vember 2013.

9 (14) On May 22, 2014, the United Nations Se-
10 curity Council added Boko Haram to the 1267 sanc-
11 tions list, a list of Al Qaeda-linked terrorist organi-
12 zations subject to weapons embargoes, travel bans,
13 and asset freezes.

14 (15) The Senate and House have both passed
15 resolutions condemning Boko Haram and the abduc-
16 tion of female students by the group from schools in
17 the northeastern province of Borno in the Federal
18 Republic of Nigeria.

19 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

20 It is the policy of the United States to work vigor-
21 ously for a lasting resolution to the conflict in northeast
22 Nigeria and other Boko Haram-affected areas by—

23 (1) eliminating the threat posed by Boko
24 Haram to civilians and regional stability through po-
25 litical, economic, humanitarian, law enforcement,

1 military, and intelligence support for a comprehen-
2 sive multilateral effort to protect civilians in affected
3 areas and to defeat and demobilize Boko Haram
4 fighters;

5 (2) supporting efforts to rescue those individ-
6 uals who have been abducted by Boko Haram; and

7 (3) further supporting comprehensive recon-
8 struction, transitional justice, development and hu-
9 manitarian programs, and reconciliation efforts.

10 **SEC. 4. REQUIREMENT OF A REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR DE-**
11 **FEATING BOKO HARAM.**

12 (a) REQUIREMENT FOR STRATEGY.—Not later than
13 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
14 President shall develop and submit to the appropriate
15 committees of Congress a regional strategy to guide
16 United States support for multilateral efforts to protect
17 civilians from attacks by Boko Haram, to eliminate the
18 threat to civilians and regional stability posed by Boko
19 Haram, and to enforce the rule of law and ensure full hu-
20 manitarian access in areas affected by Boko Haram.

21 (b) CONTENT OF STRATEGY.—The strategy should
22 include the following:

23 (1) A plan to work with Nigeria and other
24 international partners to find Boko Haram’s kidnap-
25 ping victims and liberate them and a viable plan to

1 protect civilians and eliminate the threat posed by
2 Boko Haram.

3 (2) An interagency framework to plan, coordi-
4 nate, and execute all diplomatic, economic, intel-
5 ligence, development, humanitarian, law enforce-
6 ment, and military elements of United States policy
7 across the region regarding Boko Haram.

8 (3) A framework to evaluate the progress and
9 effectiveness of the United States strategy toward
10 eliminating the threat posed by Boko Haram.

11 (c) FORM.—The strategy under this section shall be
12 submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classi-
13 fied annex.

14 **SEC. 5. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR AREAS AF-**
15 **FECTED BY BOKO HARAM.**

16 (a) AUTHORITY.—In accordance with section 491 of
17 the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2292) and
18 section 2 of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of
19 1962 (22 U.S.C. 2601), the President is authorized to
20 provide humanitarian and development assistance to the
21 populations in areas affected by Boko Haram.

22 (b) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts equivalent to the
24 funds received by the United States Government
25 pursuant to the final judgment in the case specified

1 in paragraph (2) shall, notwithstanding any other
2 provision of law, be made available to carry out this
3 section.

4 (2) CASE.—The case referred to in paragraph
5 (1) is United States of America v. All Assets Held
6 in Account Number 80020796, in name of Doraville
7 Properties Corporation, at Deutsche Bank Inter-
8 national, Limited in Jersey, Channel Islands, and
9 All Interest, Benefits, or Assets Traceable Thereto,
10 et al., Case No. 1:13-cv-01832-JDB (D.D.C.).

11 **SEC. 6. ASSISTANCE FOR RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUC-**
12 **TION IN AREAS AFFECTED BY BOKO HARAM.**

13 (a) AUTHORITY.—It is the sense of Congress that the
14 President should support efforts by the people of Boko
15 Haram-affected areas and the Governments of Nigeria,
16 Chad, Cameroon, and Niger, as security conditions per-
17 mit—

18 (1) to assist internally displaced people and re-
19 turnees in securing durable solutions by spurring
20 economic growth, supporting livelihoods, helping to
21 alleviate poverty, and promoting access to basic serv-
22 ices in northeast Nigeria, including education and
23 employment opportunities;

24 (2) to enhance the accountability and adminis-
25 trative competency of state and local governance in-

1 stitutions and public agencies in northeast Nigeria
2 with regard to budget management, provision of
3 public goods and services, and related oversight
4 functions;

5 (3) to provide all children with a quality basic
6 education while ensuring the safety of students and
7 school faculty;

8 (4) to strengthen the operational capacity of the
9 civilian police in Nigeria to enhance public safety,
10 prevent crime and communal and sectarian violence,
11 and deal sensitively with gender-based violence, while
12 strengthening accountability measures to prevent
13 corruption and abuses; and

14 (5) to promote programs to address physical
15 harm and psychosocial trauma, including post-trau-
16 matic stress disorder.

17 (b) FUTURE YEAR FUNDING.—It is the sense of Con-
18 gress that the Secretary of State and Administrator of the
19 United States Agency for International Development
20 should work with the appropriate committees of Congress
21 to increase assistance in future fiscal years to support ac-
22 tivities described in this section if the Government of Nige-
23 ria demonstrates a commitment to transparent and ac-
24 countable reconstruction in Boko Haram-affected areas of
25 Nigeria, specifically by—

1 (1) increasing oversight activities and reporting
2 to ensure funds used to combat Boko Haram are
3 used efficiently and with minimal waste; and

4 (2) committing substantial funds of its own,
5 above and beyond standard budget allocations to
6 state and local governments, for the task of com-
7 bating Boko Haram and rebuilding those regions af-
8 fected by Boko Haram attacks.

9 (c) **COORDINATION WITH OTHER DONOR NA-**
10 **TIONS.**—The United States should work with other donor
11 nations, on a bilateral and multilateral basis, to increase
12 contributions for recovery efforts in northeast Nigeria and
13 other areas affected by Boko Haram, and strengthen ac-
14 countability mechanisms to ensure the transparent and
15 timely use of those funds.

16 (d) **TERMINATION OF ASSISTANCE.**—It is the sense
17 of Congress that the Secretary of State should withhold
18 bilateral assistance to Nigeria for the purposes described
19 under this section if the Secretary determines that the
20 Government of Nigeria is not committed to transparent
21 and accountable reconstruction and reconciliation in the
22 Boko Haram-affected areas of Nigeria.

23 **SEC. 7. REPORT.**

24 (a) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 1 year after
25 the submission of the strategy required under section 4,

1 the Secretary of State shall prepare and submit to the ap-
2 propriate committees of Congress a report on the progress
3 made toward the implementation of the strategy required
4 under section 4 and a description and evaluation of the
5 assistance provided under this Act toward the policy objec-
6 tives described in section 3.

7 (b) CONTENTS.—The report required under section

8 (a) shall include—

9 (1) a description and evaluation of actions
10 taken toward the implementation of the strategy re-
11 quired under section 4;

12 (2) a description of assistance provided under
13 section 5 and section 6;

14 (3) an evaluation of bilateral assistance pro-
15 vided to Nigeria and associated programs in light of
16 stated policy objectives; and

17 (4) a description of amounts of assistance com-
18 mitted, and amounts provided, to Nigeria during the
19 reporting period by the Government of Nigeria, each
20 donor country, and all relevant organizations.

21 **SEC. 8. DEFINITION.**

22 In this Act, the term “appropriate committees of
23 Congress” means—

1 (1) the Committee on Appropriations and the
2 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
3 resentatives; and

4 (2) the Committee on Appropriations and the
5 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

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