

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4303

To establish a Special Envoy for Humanitarian Aid Workers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 7, 2025

Ms. PINGREE (for herself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. POCAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To establish a Special Envoy for Humanitarian Aid Workers, 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. SPECIAL ENVOY FOR HUMANITARIAN AID**
4 **WORKERS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the State Depart-
6 ment Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a)
7 is amended by adding at the end the following:

8 “(p) SPECIAL ENVOY FOR HUMANITARIAN AID
9 WORKERS.—

1 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be a Spe-
2 cial Envoy for Humanitarian Aid Workers, who shall
3 be appointed by the President and shall report to
4 the Secretary of State.

5 “(2) RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR.—
6 The Special Envoy shall have the rank and status of
7 ambassador.

8 “(3) DUTIES.—The Special Envoy shall be re-
9 sponsible for—

10 “(A) inquiring into the death, fatal injury,
11 or detention of any aid worker in the course of
12 providing assistance as part of a humanitarian
13 mission supported by the United States;

14 “(B) advocating for the robust coordina-
15 tion and deconfliction between humanitarian
16 missions supported by the United States, inter-
17 national bodies, and relevant foreign security
18 forces;

19 “(C) advocating for foreign countries to
20 adopt best practices, including security for aid
21 workers, to enable nongovernmental organiza-
22 tions to freely deliver humanitarian aid and as-
23 sistance;

24 “(D) developing and advocating, in con-
25 sultation with the Secretary of State, best prac-

1 tices for foreign countries to work with humani-
2 tarian nongovernmental organizations and civil
3 society organizations; and

4 “(E) advocating for any other matter that
5 supports the efforts of nongovernmental organi-
6 zations to provide humanitarian assistance
7 without the interference of the security of a for-
8 eign country.

9 “(4) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1
10 year after the date of the enactment of this section,
11 and annually thereafter, the Special Envoy shall
12 submit to the appropriate congressional committees
13 a report regarding the working environment of the
14 conflict areas in which humanitarian aid workers op-
15 erate to provide humanitarian assistance as part of
16 a humanitarian mission supported by the United
17 States, including—

18 “(A) any security challenges that non-
19 governmental organizations face in providing
20 United States humanitarian assistance;

21 “(B) the effectiveness of the United Na-
22 tions Office for the Coordination of Humani-
23 tarian Affairs in deconflicting between non-
24 governmental organizations providing humani-
25 tarian assistance and parties to conflict;

1 “(C) how much humanitarian assistance
2 the United States has distributed in the pre-
3 ceding 1-year period; and

4 “(D) any policy recommendations.

5 “(5) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 “(A) AID WORKER.—The term ‘aid worker’
7 means an individual who provides humanitarian
8 assistance to those in need outside the United
9 States.

10 “(B) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COM-
11 MITTEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional
12 committees’ means—

13 “(i) the Committees on Appropria-
14 tions of the House of Representatives and
15 Senate;

16 “(ii) the Committee on Foreign Af-
17 fairs of the House of Representatives; and

18 “(iii) the Committee on Foreign Rela-
19 tions of the Senate.”.

20 (b) REPORT ON OCHA.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
22 the date of the enactment of this section, the Special
23 Envoy for Humanitarian Aid Workers shall, in con-
24 sultation with the Secretary of State, submit to the
25 appropriate congressional committees a report re-

1 garding the effectiveness of the efforts of the United
2 Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian
3 Affairs with respect to coordination and
4 deconfliction between humanitarian nongovernmental
5 organizations and foreign countries as part of a humanitarian
6 response supported by the United States.

7 (2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
8 DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate
9 congressional committees” means—

10 (A) the Committees on Appropriations of
11 the Senate and House of Representatives;

12 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
13 the House of Representatives; and

14 (C) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
15 the Senate.

16 **SEC. 2. INVESTIGATIONS INTO ANY KILLING OR FATAL IN-**
17 **JURY OF HUMANITARIAN AID WORKERS.**

18 Chapter 1 of part III of the Foreign Assistance Act
19 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2351 et seq.) is amended by adding
20 at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 620N. PROHIBITION ON ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES**
2 **THAT UNLAWFULLY KILL OR FATALLY IN-**
3 **JURE HUMANITARIAN AID WORKERS.**

4 “(a) PROHIBITION ON ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES
5 THAT UNLAWFULLY KILL OR FATALLY INJURE HUMANI-
6 TARIAN AID WORKERS.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—No security assistance (as
8 such term is defined in section 502B) and no de-
9 fense article or defense service subject to the re-
10 quirements of section 36 of the Arms Export Con-
11 trol Act may be furnished to any foreign country if
12 the Secretary of State certifies to the appropriate
13 congressional committees that such foreign country
14 has unlawfully killed or fatally injured humanitarian
15 aid workers or refused reasonable requests to fur-
16 nish relevant information to the Secretary of the
17 United States, unless the Secretary of State also
18 certifies to the appropriate congressional committees
19 that, in the determination of the Secretary, such for-
20 eign country—

21 “(A) has taken sufficient action to inves-
22 tigate previous violations, adopt corrective ac-
23 tions, take effective steps to bring the respon-
24 sible members of the security force unit to jus-
25 tice, and coordinate active humanitarian aid
26 missions; and

1 “(B) will enable humanitarian aid workers
2 to participate in such missions without being
3 unlawfully killed or fatally injured.

4 “(2) APPLICABILITY.—A certification under
5 paragraph (1) shall be submitted not later than 15
6 days before the entry into effect of such certifi-
7 cation.

8 “(b) AID WORKER INDEPENDENT INQUIRY
9 GROUP.—

10 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days
11 after appointment of the Special Envoy for Humanitarian
12 Aid Workers, the President shall establish an
13 interagency group, to be known as the Aid Worker
14 Independent Inquiry Group (in this section referred
15 to as the ‘Group’), to assess and analyze the death
16 or detention of any individual participating in an ac-
17 tive humanitarian aid mission after the date of the
18 enactment of this Act.

19 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Group shall be led by
20 the Special Envoy and consist of such number of
21 representatives as the Special Envoy may determine
22 appropriate from—

23 “(A) the Department of Justice;

24 “(B) the Department of State, including—

25 “(i) relevant embassies;

1 “(ii) the Office of Foreign Assistance;

2 and

3 “(iii) relevant offices under the Un-
4 dersecretary for Political Affairs;

5 “(C) the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

6 “(D) the Office of the Director of National
7 Intelligence; and

8 “(E) any other Federal department or
9 agency that the Special Envoy may determine
10 appropriate.

11 “(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than
12 90 days after the incidence of a death or detention
13 described in paragraph (1), the Special Envoy, in co-
14 ordination with the Group, shall submit to Congress
15 a report that includes—

16 “(A) the cause of such death or detention;

17 “(B) with respect to a death—

18 “(i) a description of the events leading
19 up to such death;

20 “(ii) if the military of a foreign coun-
21 try is responsible for causing the death of
22 any such aid worker;

23 “(iii) an assessment of the cir-
24 cumstances surrounding such death, in-
25 cluding the information available to and in-

1 tentions of the unit of such military in-
2 volved;

3 “(iv) information on the source of
4 such death, including the type of munitions
5 used in connection with such death, if any;

6 “(v) whether it is more likely than not
7 that any defense article used was trans-
8 ferred from the United States or pur-
9 chased by the perpetrator from United
10 States assistance; and

11 “(vi) any other detail that the Special
12 Envoy determines relevant to the cir-
13 cumstances of the death;

14 “(C) with respect to a detention, informa-
15 tion on the grounds for such detention, includ-
16 ing any criminal charges and evidence against
17 the detainee;

18 “(D) an assessment of the degree of co-
19 operation with the investigation of the death or
20 detention by the relevant foreign country, in-
21 cluding whether such country has furnished all
22 requested information; and

23 “(E) a final assessment as to whether such
24 death or detention was consistent with the laws
25 of the international community, of the host

1 country, and the Department of Defense’s Law
2 of War Manual.

3 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) ACTIVE HUMANITARIAN AID MISSION.—

5 The term ‘active humanitarian aid mission’ means
6 an ongoing, organized effort outside the United
7 States where United States humanitarian assistance
8 is being delivered or administered by the inter-
9 national community, individual countries, or inter-
10 national organizations to prevent and control non-
11 political and non-military crises and to mitigate their
12 effects.

13 “(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
14 TEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional com-
15 mittees’ means—

16 “(A) the Committees on Appropriations of
17 the House of Representatives and Senate;

18 “(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
19 the House of Representatives; and

20 “(C) the Committee on Foreign Relations
21 of the Senate.

22 “(3) HUMANITARIAN AID WORKER.—The term
23 ‘humanitarian aid worker’ means an individual par-
24 ticipating in an active humanitarian aid mission to
25 provide assistance and resources to those in need.

1 “(4) UNLAWFUL KILLING.—The term ‘unlawful
2 killing’ means the use of lethal force by a govern-
3 ment or its agents that—

4 “(A) if in a state of armed conflict, is in-
5 consistent with the requirements of inter-
6 national humanitarian law that are enshrined
7 as principles in the United States Department
8 of Defense Law of War Manual; or

9 “(B) if outside of a state of armed conflict,
10 would constitute homicide as defined in section
11 1111 or 1112 of title 18, United States Code.”.

○