



(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To provide for the imposition of sanctions with respect to Tunisia, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina introduced the following bill; which was
referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide for the imposition of sanctions with respect to
Tunisia, 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 “Tunisia Democracy
5 Restoration Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

7 It is the policy of the United States to support the
8 restoration of democracy in Tunisia and to oppose the au-

1 thortarian takeover by the illegitimate regime led by Kais
2 Saied.

3 **SEC. 3. SUSPENSION OF ASSISTANCE TO THE GOVERNMENT**
4 **OF TUNISIA.**

5 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no fund-
6 ing may be appropriated or otherwise made available to
7 any security services or units in Tunisia which are linked
8 to human rights abuses, domestic repression, or the under-
9 mining of democracy in Tunisia.

10 **SEC. 4. SANCTIONS.**

11 (a) LIST REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after
12 the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall
13 make publicly available on a website of the Federal gov-
14 ernment, a list of foreign persons that—

15 (1) the President determines to be engaged
16 in—

17 (A) actions that undermine democratic
18 processes or institutions of Tunisia; or

19 (B) significant corruption in Tunisia; and

20 (2) the President determines to be knowingly
21 responsible for or complicit in serious human rights
22 abuses committed against the citizens of Tunisia, or
23 their family members, including the forced dis-
24 appearance, arrest, detention, or charging of polit-

1 ical prisoners, activists, journalists, or lawyers for
2 opposing the regime led by Kais Saied.

3 (b) PERSONS TO BE INCLUDED ON LIST.—In devel-
4 oping the list required by subsection (a), the President
5 shall consider for inclusion on the list officials of the Gov-
6 ernment of Tunisia, if they meet criteria for inclusion
7 under subparagraph (a)(1) and (a)(2).

8 (c) UPDATES TO LIST.—The President shall update
9 the list required by subsection (a) every six months for
10 a period of four years.

11 (d) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose
13 the sanctions described in paragraph (2) with re-
14 spect to each foreign person on the list required by
15 subsection (a).

16 (2) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions de-
17 scribed in this paragraph are the following:

18 (A) PROPERTY BLOCKING.—The President
19 shall exercise all powers granted by the Inter-
20 national Emergency Economic Powers Act (50
21 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to
22 block and prohibit all transactions in all prop-
23 erty and interests in property of a person on
24 the list required by subsection (a) if such prop-
25 erty and interests in property are in the United

1 States, come within the United States, or are or
2 come within the possession or control of a
3 United States person.

4 (B) ALIENS INELIGIBLE FOR VISAS, AD-
5 MISSION, OR PAROLE.—

6 (i) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

7 An alien who the Secretary of State or the
8 Secretary of Homeland Security (or a des-
9 ignee of one of such Secretaries) identifies
10 as on the list required by subsection (a)
11 is—

12 (I) inadmissible to the United
13 States;

14 (II) ineligible to receive a visa or
15 other documentation to enter the
16 United States; and

17 (III) otherwise ineligible to be
18 admitted or paroled into the United
19 States or to receive any other benefit
20 under the Immigration and Nation-
21 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

22 (ii) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

23 (I) IN GENERAL.—The issuing
24 consular officer, the Secretary of
25 State, or the Secretary of Homeland

1 Security (or a designee of one of such
2 Secretaries) shall, in accordance with
3 section 221(i) of the Immigration and
4 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)),
5 revoke any visa or other entry docu-
6 mentation issued to an alien who the
7 Secretary of State or the Secretary of
8 Homeland Security (or a designee of
9 one of such Secretaries) identifies as
10 on the list required by subsection (a),
11 regardless of when the visa or other
12 documentation is issued.

13 (II) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—

14 A revocation under subclause (I)—

15 (aa) shall take effect imme-
16 diately; and

17 (bb) shall automatically can-
18 cel any other valid visa or entry
19 documentation that is in the
20 alien's possession.

21 (3) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, at-
22 tempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a
23 violation of paragraph (1)(A) or any regulation, li-
24 cense, or order issued to carry out paragraph (1)(A)
25 shall be subject to the penalties set forth in sub-

1 sections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the Inter-
2 national Emergency Economic Powers Act (50
3 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that
4 commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a)
5 of that section.

6 (4) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED NA-
7 TIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT.—Sanctions
8 under paragraph (1)(B) shall not apply with respect
9 to an alien if admitting the alien into the United
10 States is necessary to permit the United States to
11 comply with the Agreement regarding the Head-
12 quarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Suc-
13 cess June 26, 1947, and entered into force Novem-
14 ber 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the
15 United States, or other applicable international
16 agreements.

17 (e) SUSPENSION.—The President may suspend in
18 whole or in part the imposition of sanctions otherwise re-
19 quired under this section if the President determines that
20 the following criteria have been met in Tunisia:

21 (1) Tunisia has restored the democratic con-
22 stitution of 2014.

23 (2) Free and fair elections have been held in
24 Tunisia, pursuant to the 2014 constitution, under
25 international monitoring and supervision.

1 (3) All Tunisian political prisoners have been
2 released including activists, journalists, former mem-
3 bers of Parliament, and others who have been un-
4 justly detained by the regime of Kais Saied.

5 (f) EXEMPTIONS AND WAIVER.—

6 (1) EXEMPTIONS.—Activities and transactions
7 shall be exempt from sanctions authorized under this
8 section that are necessary to comply with United
9 States obligations under—

10 (A) the Agreement regarding the Head-
11 quarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake
12 Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force
13 November 21, 1947, between the United Na-
14 tions and the United States;

15 (B) the Convention on Consular Relations,
16 done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and entered
17 into force March 19, 1967; or

18 (C) any other international agreement to
19 which the United States is a party.

20 (2) WAIVER.—The President may, for periods
21 not to exceed 180 days, waive the application of any
22 provision of this section with respect to a foreign
23 person if the President certifies to Congress that
24 such a waiver is in the national security interests of
25 the United States.

1 **SEC. 5. STRATEGY TO RESTORE DEMOCRACY IN TUNISIA.**

2 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
3 ment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation
4 with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall submit to Con-
5 gress a strategy regarding steps that can be taken to re-
6 store democracy to Tunisia, including restoring Tunisian
7 democratic institutions such as the Parliament and the
8 independent judiciary, as well as restoring the democratic
9 constitution of 2014.

10 **SEC. 6. SUNSET.**

11 This Act shall cease to be effective beginning on the
12 date that is 4 years after the date of the enactment of
13 this Act.