

BILL SUMMARY

July 2018

STOP Using Human Shields Act (S. 3257)

The Sanction Terrorist Operations Using Human Shields Act of 2018—or the STOP Using Human Shields Act—mandates sanctions against members of foreign terrorist organizations responsible for the use of human shields. Terrorist groups—including Hamas, Hezbollah and ISIS—are blatantly violating international law by placing their terrorist infrastructure amongst civilian populations and hiding behind innocent civilians as they carry out armed attacks. The legislation is authored by Sens. Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Joe Donnelly (D-IN).

Key Provisions:

- Declares it is the policy of the United States to “officially and publicly condemn” and “take effective action against” terrorist organizations that violate the international law of armed conflict by using human shields.
- Requires the president to impose sanctions on members of U.S. designated foreign terrorist organizations that knowingly encourage, order, control, or are complicit in, any attempt to use human shields.
- Requires the president to impose sanctions on government agencies of foreign states that have “encouraged, supported, ordered, controlled, directed, or significantly facilitated” the use of human shields by foreign terrorist organizations.
- Requires the president to freeze any assets and deny entry into the United States of anyone who knowingly violates the provisions of this bill.
- Calls on the president to direct the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations to secure support for a Security Council resolution that would condemn the use of human shields and impose multilateral sanctions against terrorist organizations for the use of human shields.
- Provides a waiver to the imposition of sanctions if the president determines that such a waiver is in the national security interest of the United States.