

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7276

To direct the President to submit to Congress a report on United States Government efforts to collect, analyze, and preserve evidence and information related to war crimes and any other atrocities committed during the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine since February 24, 2022, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 29, 2022

Mr. McCAUL (for himself and Mr. MEEKS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To direct the President to submit to Congress a report on United States Government efforts to collect, analyze, and preserve evidence and information related to war crimes and any other atrocities committed during the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine since February 24, 2022, 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 “Ukraine Invasion War
5 Crimes Deterrence and Accountability Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2 It is the sense of Congress that—

3 (1) in its premeditated, unprovoked, unjustified,
4 and unlawful full-scale invasion of Ukraine that
5 commenced on February 24, 2022, the military of
6 the Government of the Russian Federation under
7 the direction of President Vladimir Putin has com-
8 mitted war crimes that include but are not limited
9 to—

10 (A) the deliberate targeting of civilians and
11 injuring or killing of noncombatants;

12 (B) the deliberate targeting and attacking
13 of hospitals, schools, and other non-military
14 buildings dedicated to religion, art, science, or
15 charitable purposes, such as the bombing of a
16 theater in Mariupol that served as a shelter for
17 noncombatants and had the word “children”
18 written clearly in the Russian language outside;

19 (C) the indiscriminate bombardment of
20 undefended dwellings and buildings;

21 (D) the wanton destruction of property not
22 justified by military necessity;

23 (E) unlawful civilian deportations; and

24 (F) the taking of hostages;

25 (2) the use of chemical weapons by the Govern-
26 ment of the Russian Federation in Ukraine would

1 constitute a war crime, and engaging in any military
2 preparations to use chemical weapons or to develop,
3 produce, stockpile, or retain chemical weapons is
4 prohibited by the Chemical Weapons Convention, to
5 which the Russian Federation is a signatory;

6 (3) Vladimir Putin has a long record of com-
7 mitting acts of aggression, systematic abuses of
8 human rights, and acts that constitute war crimes or
9 other atrocities both at home and abroad, and the
10 brutality and scale of these actions, including in the
11 Russian Federation Republic of Chechnya, Georgia,
12 Syria, and Ukraine, demonstrate the extent to which
13 his regime is willing to flout international norms and
14 values in the pursuit of its objectives;

15 (4) Vladimir Putin has previously sanctioned
16 the use of chemical weapons at home and abroad, in-
17 cluding in the poisonings of Russian spy turned dou-
18 ble agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia and
19 leading Russian opposition figure Aleksey Navalny,
20 and aided and abetted the use of chemical weapons
21 by President Bashar al-Assad in Syria; and

22 (5) in 2014, the Government of the Russian
23 Federation initiated its unprovoked war of aggres-
24 sion against Ukraine which resulted in its illegal oc-
25 cupation of Crimea, the unrecognized declaration of

1 independence by the so-called “Donetsk People’s Re-
2 public” and “Luhansk People’s Republic” by Rus-
3 sia-backed proxies, and numerous human rights vio-
4 lations and deaths of civilians in Ukraine.

5 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

6 It is the policy of the United States—

7 (1) to collect, analyze, and preserve evidence
8 and information related to war crimes and other
9 atrocities committed during the full-scale Russian
10 invasion of Ukraine that began on February 24,
11 2022, for use in appropriate domestic, foreign, and
12 international courts and tribunals prosecuting those
13 responsible for such crimes;

14 (2) to help deter the commission of war crimes
15 and other atrocities in Ukraine by publicizing to the
16 maximum possible extent, including among Russian
17 and other foreign military commanders and troops
18 in Ukraine, efforts to identify and prosecute those
19 responsible for the commission of war crimes during
20 the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine that
21 began on February 24, 2022; and

22 (3) to continue efforts to identify, deter, and
23 pursue accountability for war crimes and other
24 atrocities committed around the world and by other
25 perpetrators, and to leverage international coopera-

1 tion and best practices in this regard with respect to
2 the current situation in Ukraine.

3 **SEC. 4. REPORT ON UNITED STATES EFFORTS.**

4 Not later than 60 days after the date of the enact-
5 ment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appro-
6 priate congressional committees a report, which may in-
7 clude a classified annex, describing in detail the following:

8 (1) United States Government efforts to collect,
9 analyze, and preserve evidence and information re-
10 lated to war crimes and any other atrocities com-
11 mitted during the full-scale Russian invasion of
12 Ukraine since February 24, 2022, including a de-
13 scription of—

14 (A) the respective roles of various agencies,
15 departments, and offices, and the interagency
16 mechanism established for the coordination of
17 such efforts;

18 (B) the types of information and evidence
19 that are being collected, analyzed, and pre-
20 served to help identify those responsible for the
21 commission of war crimes or any other atroc-
22 ities during the full-scale Russian invasion of
23 Ukraine in 2022; and

24 (C) steps taken to coordinate with, and
25 support the work of, allies, partners, inter-

1 national institutions and organizations, and
2 nongovernmental organizations in such efforts.

3 (2) Media, public diplomacy, and information
4 operations to make Russian military commanders,
5 troops, political leaders and the Russian people
6 aware of efforts to identify and prosecute those re-
7 sponsible for the commission of war crimes or any
8 other atrocities during the full-scale Russian inva-
9 sion of Ukraine in 2022, and of the types of acts
10 that may be prosecutable.

11 (3) The process for a domestic, foreign, or
12 international court or tribunal to request and obtain
13 from the United States Government information re-
14 lated to war crimes or other atrocities committed
15 during the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine in
16 2022.

17 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

18 In this Act:

19 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
20 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
21 mittees” means—

22 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
23 Committee on the Judiciary, and the Perma-
24 nent Select Committee on Intelligence of the
25 House of Representatives; and

1 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations,
2 the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Select
3 Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

4 (2) ATROCITIES.—The term “atrocities” has
5 the meaning given that term in section 6(2) of the
6 Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act
7 of 2018 (Public Law 115–441; 22 U.S.C. 2656
8 note).

9 (3) WAR CRIME.—The term “war crime” has
10 the meaning given that term in section 2441(c) of
11 title 18, United States Code.

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