



Armenian National Committee of America

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ANCA Policy Brief: The Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act

The Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act authorizes the President to impose economic sanctions, freeze assets, and deny entry into the United States to any foreign person identified as engaging in human rights abuse or corruption.

The ANCA is working to ensure Azerbaijani officials responsible for grave human rights violations are sanctioned under the Global Magnitsky Act through three complementary processes:

Co-Sponsor H.R.8141 – the Azerbaijan Sanctions Review Act

The Azerbaijan Sanctions Review Act, a bipartisan bill introduced by Representatives Dina Titus (D-NV) and Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), would require the Administration to report on the applicability of Global Magnitsky Sanctions against Azerbaijani officials responsible for human rights violations and war crimes.

The bill names 48 individuals identified by the Armenian Legal Center for Justice and Human Rights (ALCJHR) and the International Comparative Law Center in Yerevan as responsible for human rights violations including the abuse and torture of Armenian prisoners of war and civilian captives, the extrajudicial killing of civilians and unarmed combatants, and the arbitrary prolonged detention and denial of fair trial to captives in Azerbaijan's custody.

Section 1263(d) of the Global Magnitsky Act

Section 1263(d) of the Global Magnitsky Act requires the administration to respond to bipartisan requests from key committee leaders to determine whether specific perpetrators meet the criteria for sanctions. A letter requires the support of both the chair and ranking member of at least one of the following committees of jurisdiction: the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the House Financial Services Committee, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, or the Senate Banking Committee.

Within 120 days of receiving a request from Congressional leaders, the executive branch is required to determine whether the specified persons have engaged in sanctionable activities; and report in unclassified or classified form to the requesting members of Congress on whether it intends to impose sanctions on the persons.

The ANCA is currently working with Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH), chair of the Senate Banking Committee, to lead Senate efforts to enforce sanctions against Azerbaijani war criminals.

Submissions to the Departments of State and Treasury

The ALCJHR, in partnership with the International Comparative Law Center in Yerevan, has filed seven cases with the Departments of Treasury and State requesting an assessment of the applicability of Global Magnitsky Act sanctions against 48 Azerbaijani officials responsible for human rights violations.

