

(1) a Director, who shall be a full-time senior officer or employee of the United States Government;

(2) a Family Engagement Coordinator who shall—

(A) work to ensure that all interactions by executive branch officials with a hostage's family occur in a coordinated fashion and that the family receives consistent and accurate information from the United States Government; and

(B) if directed, perform the same function as set out in subparagraph (A) with regard to the family of a United States national who is unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad; and

(3) other officers and employees as deemed appropriate by the President.

(d) Duties

The Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell shall—

(1) coordinate efforts by participating agencies to ensure that all relevant information, expertise, and resources are brought to bear to secure the safe recovery of United States nationals held hostage abroad;

(2) if directed, coordinate the United States Government's response to other hostage-takings occurring abroad in which the United States has a national interest;

(3) if directed, coordinate or assist the United States Government's response to help secure the release of United States nationals unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad; and

(4) pursuant to policy guidance coordinated through the National Security Council—

(A) identify and recommend hostage recovery options and strategies to the President through the National Security Council or the Deputies Committee of the National Security Council;

(B) coordinate efforts by participating agencies to ensure that information regarding hostage events, including potential recovery options and engagements with families and external actors (including foreign governments), is appropriately shared within the United States Government to facilitate a coordinated response to a hostage-taking;

(C) assess and track all hostage-takings of United States nationals abroad and provide regular reports to the President and Congress on the status of such cases and any measures being taken toward the hostages' safe recovery;

(D) provide a forum for intelligence sharing and, with the support of the Director of National Intelligence, coordinate the declassification of relevant information;

(E) coordinate efforts by participating agencies to provide appropriate support and assistance to hostages and their families in a coordinated and consistent manner and to provide families with timely information regarding significant events in their cases;

(F) make recommendations to agencies in order to reduce the likelihood of United States nationals' being taken hostage abroad and enhance United States Government preparation to maximize the prob-

ability of a favorable outcome following a hostage-taking; and

(G) coordinate with agencies regarding congressional, media, and other public inquiries pertaining to hostage events.

(e) Administration

The Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell shall be located within the Federal Bureau of Investigation for administrative purposes.

(Pub. L. 116-260, div. FF, title III, §304, Dec. 27, 2020, 134 Stat. 3094.)

§ 1741c. Hostage Response Group

(a) Establishment

The President shall establish a Hostage Response Group, chaired by a designated member of the National Security Council or the Deputies Committee of the National Security Council, to be convened on a regular basis, to further the safe recovery of United States nationals held hostage abroad or unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad, and to be tasked with coordinating the United States Government response to other hostage-takings occurring abroad in which the United States has a national interest.

(b) Membership

The regular members of the Hostage Response Group shall include the Director of the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell, the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell's Family Engagement Coordinator, the Special Envoy appointed pursuant to section 1741a of this title, and representatives from the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Central Intelligence Agency, and other agencies as the President, from time to time, may designate.

(c) Duties

The Hostage Recovery Group shall—

(1) identify and recommend hostage recovery options and strategies to the President through the National Security Council;

(2) coordinate the development and implementation of United States hostage recovery policies, strategies, and procedures;

(3) receive regular updates from the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell and the Special Envoy for Hostage Affairs on the status of United States nationals being held hostage or unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad and measures being taken to effect safe recoveries;

(4) coordinate the provision of policy guidance to the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell, including reviewing recovery options proposed by the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell and working to resolve disputes within the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell;

(5) as appropriate, direct the use of resources at the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell to coordinate or assist in the safe recovery of United States nationals unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad; and

(6) as appropriate, direct the use of resources at the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell to coordinate the United States Government response to other hostage-takings occurring abroad in which the United States has a national interest.

(d) Meetings

The Hostage Response Group shall meet regularly.

(e) Reporting

The Hostage Response Group shall regularly provide recommendations on hostage recovery options and strategies to the National Security Council.

(Pub. L. 116-260, div. FF, title III, §305, Dec. 27, 2020, 134 Stat. 3095.)

§ 1741d. Authorization of imposition of sanctions**(a) In general**

The President may impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to any foreign person the President determines, based on credible evidence—

(1) is responsible for or is complicit in, or responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing, the hostage-taking of a United States national abroad or the unlawful or wrongful detention of a United States national abroad; or

(2) knowingly provides financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, an activity described in paragraph (1).

(b) Sanctions described

The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(1) Ineligibility for visas, admission, or parole**(A) Visas, admission, or parole**

An alien described in subsection (a) may be—

- (i) inadmissible to the United States;
- (ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and
- (iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(B) Current visas revoked**(i) In general**

An alien described in subsection (a) may be subject to revocation of any visa or other entry documentation regardless of when the visa or other entry documentation is or was issued.

(ii) Immediate effect

A revocation under clause (i) may—

- (I) take effect immediately; and
- (II) cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the alien's possession.

(2) Blocking of property**(A) In general**

The President may exercise all of the powers granted to the President under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of a foreign person described in subsection (a) if

such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(B) Inapplicability of national emergency requirement

The requirements of section 202 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall not apply for purposes of this section.

(c) Exceptions**(1) Exception for intelligence activities**

Sanctions under this section shall not apply to any activity subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or any authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

(2) Exception to comply with international obligations and for law enforcement activities

Sanctions under subsection (b)(1) shall not apply with respect to an alien if admitting or paroling the alien into the United States is necessary—

(A) to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations; or

(B) to carry out or assist law enforcement activity in the United States.

(d) Penalties

A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of subsection (b)(2) or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out that subsection shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(e) Termination of sanctions

The President may terminate the application of sanctions under this section with respect to a person if the President determines that—

(1) information exists that the person did not engage in the activity for which sanctions were imposed;

(2) the person has been prosecuted appropriately for the activity for which sanctions were imposed;

(3) the person has credibly demonstrated a significant change in behavior, has paid an appropriate consequence for the activity for which sanctions were imposed, and has credibly committed to not engage in an activity described in subsection (a) in the future; or

(4) the termination of the sanctions is in the national security interests of the United States.