111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1346

To penalize crimes against humanity, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES
JUNE 24, 2009

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. FEINGOLD) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To penalize crimes against humanity, 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 “Crimes Against Hu-
5 manity Act of 2009”.

6 SEC. 2. ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CRIMES AGAINST HUMAN-
7 ITY.

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part 1 of title 18, United States
9 Code, is amended by inserting after chapter 25 the fol-
10 lowing:
“CHAPTER 25A—CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

“Sec.
“519. Crimes against humanity.

“§ 519. Crimes against humanity

“(a) OFFENSE.—It shall be unlawful for any person to commit or engage in, as part of a widespread and systematic attack directed against any civilian population, and with knowledge of the attack—

“(1) conduct that, if it occurred in the United States, would violate—

“(A) section 1111 of this title (relating to murder);

“(B) section 1581(a) of this title (relating to peonage);

“(C) section 1583(a)(1) of this title (relating to kidnapping or carrying away individuals for involuntary servitude or slavery);

“(D) section 1584(a) of this title (relating to sale into involuntary servitude);

“(E) section 1589(a) of this title (relating to forced labor); or

“(F) section 1590(a) of this title (relating to trafficking with respect to peonage, slavery, involuntary servitude, or forced labor);
“(2) conduct that, if it occurred in the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, would violate—

“(A) section 1591(a) of this title (relating to sex trafficking of children or by force, fraud, or coercion);

“(B) section 2241(a) of this title (relating to aggravated sexual abuse by force or threat); or

“(C) section 2242 of this title (relating to sexual abuse);

“(3) conduct that, if it occurred in the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, and without regard to whether the offender is the parent of the victim, would violate section 1201(a) of this title (relating to kidnapping);

“(4) conduct that, if it occurred in the United States, would violate section 1203(a) of this title (relating to hostage taking), notwithstanding any exception under subsection (b) of section 1203;

“(5) conduct that would violate section 2340A of this title (relating to torture);

“(6) extermination;

“(7) national, ethnic, racial, or religious cleansing;
“(8) arbitrary detention; or
“(9) imposed measures intended to prevent births.

“(b) PENALTY.—Any person who violates subsection (a), or attempts or conspires to violate subsection (a)—
“(1) shall be fined under this title, imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both; and
“(2) if the death of any person results from the violation of subsection (a), shall be fined under this title and imprisoned for any term of years or for life.

“(c) JURISDICTION.—There is jurisdiction over a violation of subsection (a), and any attempt or conspiracy to commit a violation of subsection (a), if—
“(1) the alleged offender is a national of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence;
“(2) the alleged offender is a stateless person whose habitual residence is in the United States;
“(3) the alleged offender is present in the United States, regardless of the nationality of the alleged offender; or
“(4) the offense is committed in whole or in part within the United States.

“(d) NONAPPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN LIMITATIONS.—Notwithstanding section 3282 of this title, in the
case of an offense under this section, an indictment may be found, or information instituted, at any time without limitation.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ARBITRARY DETENTION.—The term ‘arbitrary detention’ means imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedure as are established by the law of the jurisdiction where such imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty took place.

“(2) ARMED GROUP.—The term ‘armed group’ means any army, militia, or other military organization, whether or not it is State-sponsored, excluding any group assembled solely for nonviolent political association.

“(3) ATTACK DIRECTED AGAINST ANY CIVILIAN POPULATION.—The term ‘attack directed against any civilian population’ means a course of conduct in which a civilian population is a primary rather than an incidental target.

“(4) ETHNIC GROUP; NATIONAL GROUP; RACIAL GROUP; RELIGIOUS GROUP.—The terms ‘ethnic group’, ‘national group’, ‘racial group’, and ‘religious
group’ have the meanings given those terms in section 1093 of this title.

“(5) Extermination.—The term ‘extermination’ means subjecting a civilian population to conditions of life that are intended to cause the physical destruction of the group in whole or in part.

“(6) Lawfully admitted for permanent residence; national of the United States.—The terms ‘lawfully admitted for permanent residence’ and ‘national of the United States’ have the meanings give those terms in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)).

“(7) National, ethnic, racial, or religious cleansing.—The term ‘national, ethnic, racial, or religious cleansing’ means the intentional and forced displacement from 1 country to another or within a country of any national group, ethnic group, racial group, or religious group in whole or in part, by expulsion or other coercive acts from the area in which they are lawfully present, except when the displacement is in accordance with applicable laws of armed conflict that permit involuntary and temporary displacement of a population to ensure its
security or when imperative military reasons so de-
mand.

“(8) SYSTEMATIC.—The term ‘systematic’
means pursuant to or in furtherance of the policy of
a State or armed group.

“(9) WIDESPREAD.—The term ‘widespread’
means involving multiple victims.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters
for part 1 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by
inserting after the item relating to chapter 25 the fol-
lowing:

“25A. Crimes against humanity ...................................................... 519”.

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