

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S. 1739**

To promote freedom of the press around the world.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 1, 2009

Mr. DODD introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

# A BILL

To promote freedom of the press around the world.

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 “Daniel Pearl Freedom  
5 of the Press Act of 2009”.

## 6 SEC. 2. FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.

7 (a) INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RE-  
8 LATING TO FREEDOM OF THE PRESS WORLDWIDE IN AN-  
9 NUAL COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRAC-  
10 TICES.—The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is amend-  
11 ed—

12 (1) in section 116(d) (22 U.S.C. 2151n(d))—

1 (A) in paragraph (10), by striking “and”  
2 at the end;

3 (B) in paragraph (11), by striking the pe-  
4 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following new  
6 paragraph:

8                     “(A) a description of the status of freedom  
9                     of the press, including initiatives in favor of  
10                    freedom of the press and efforts to improve or  
11                    preserve, as appropriate, the independence of  
12                    the media, together with an assessment of  
13                    progress made as a result of those efforts;

14                             “(B) an identification of countries in which  
15                             there were violations of freedom of the press,  
16                             including direct physical attacks, imprisonment,  
17                             indirect sources of pressure, and censorship by  
18                             governments, military, intelligence, or police  
19                             forces, criminal groups, or armed extremist or  
20                             rebel groups; and

21                   “(C) in countries where there are particu-  
22                   larly severe violations of freedom of the press—

11       “(i) The report required by subsection (b) shall in-  
12 clude, wherever applicable—

13                   “(1) a description of the status of freedom of  
14                   the press, including initiatives in favor of freedom of  
15                   the press and efforts to improve or preserve, as ap-  
16                   propriate, the independence of the media, together  
17                   with an assessment of progress made as a result of  
18                   those efforts;

19               “(2) an identification of countries in which  
20               there were violations of freedom of the press, includ-  
21               ing direct physical attacks, imprisonment, indirect  
22               sources of pressure, and censorship by governments,  
23               military, intelligence, or police forces, criminal  
24               groups, or armed extremist or rebel groups; and

1               “(3) in countries where there are particularly  
2               severe violations of freedom of the press—

3               “(A) whether government authorities of  
4               each such country participate in, facilitate, or  
5               condone such violations of the freedom of the  
6               press; and

7               “(B) what steps the government of each  
8               such country has taken to preserve the safety  
9               and independence of the media, and to ensure  
10               the prosecution of those individuals who attack  
11               or murder journalists.”.

12               (b) FREEDOM OF THE PRESS GRANT PROGRAM.—

13               (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall  
14               administer a grant program with the aim of pro-  
15               moting freedom of the press worldwide. The grant  
16               program shall be administered by the Department of  
17               State’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and  
18               Labor in consultation with the Undersecretary for  
19               Public Affairs and Public Diplomacy.

20               (2) AMOUNTS AND TIME.—Grants may be  
21               awarded to nonprofit and international organizations  
22               and may span multiple years, up to 5 years.

23               (3) PURPOSE.—Grant proposals should promote  
24               and broaden press freedoms by strengthening the  
25               independence of journalists and media organizations,

1       promoting a legal framework for freedom of the  
2       press, or through providing regionally and culturally  
3       relevant training and professionalization of skills to  
4       meet international standards in both traditional and  
5       digital media.

6       (c) MEDIA ORGANIZATION DEFINED.—In this sec-  
7       tion, the term “media organization” means a group or or-  
8       ganization that gathers and disseminates news and infor-  
9       mation to the public (through any medium of mass com-  
10       munication) in a foreign country in which the group or  
11       organization is located, except that the term does not in-  
12       clude a group or organization that is primarily an agency  
13       or instrumentality of the government of such foreign coun-  
14       try. The term includes an individual who is an agent or  
15       employee of such group or organization who acts within  
16       the scope of such agency or employment.

17       (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
18       are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be  
19       necessary to carry out this section.

