

## S 1495

International Press Freedom Act of 2021

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** International Affairs

**Introduced:** Apr 29, 2021

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure:

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S2362) (Apr 29, 2021)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1495>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** VA • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Graham, Lindsey [R-SC]	R · SC		Apr 29, 2021
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Jul 21, 2021
Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]	D · CA		May 18, 2022

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Apr 29, 2021

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

International Affairs

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 7650	Related bill	Nov 1, 2022: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.

## **International Press Freedom Act of 2021**

This bill establishes programs to address international threats to press freedom and allows qualifying threatened journalists to be admitted into the United States.

The bill establishes an Office on International Press Freedom within the Department of State. The office's duties shall include (1) advocating for freedom of the press and freedom of expression abroad, (2) advising on U.S. policy on advancing such freedoms abroad, and (3) representing the United States in matters relating to such freedoms.

The bill also establishes the At-Risk Journalists Fund. The State Department shall use the fund to support journalists operating in restrictive environments and provide emergency assistance to journalists who have been threatened.

If the assistance provided through the fund is insufficient to protect the safety of an alien journalist who has been threatened, the journalist may receive a foreign media nonimmigrant visa upon meeting certain qualifications. The State Department must prioritize the review of a visa application for such a threatened journalist.

Similarly, the Department of Homeland Security must consider providing humanitarian parole to threatened journalists and provide an admission preference to certain threatened journalists (generally if the journalist's life or safety is at risk and if paroling the journalist would further U.S. foreign policy or national security interests).

The Department of Justice must provide training to all officials adjudicating refugee cases about issues involving freedom of the press. The State Department must also provide training on such issues to certain Foreign Service officers working overseas.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Apr 29, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 29, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S2362)