

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. RES. 836

Urging the United States Government to enhance the Middle East region's capacity to dismantle and disrupt the illicit production and trafficking of the amphetamine-type stimulant also known as captagon, including the production of precursor chemicals.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 1, 2023

Mr. MOSKOWITZ (for himself and Mr. MILLS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## RESOLUTION

Urging the United States Government to enhance the Middle East region's capacity to dismantle and disrupt the illicit production and trafficking of the amphetamine-type stimulant also known as captagon, including the production of precursor chemicals.

Whereas the market for the amphetamine-type stimulant "captagon" has grown into an industrial-scale illicit trade in the Mediterranean-Gulf zone over the last 5 years;

Whereas elements of the Assad regime are key drivers of illicit trafficking in captagon, with ministerial-level complicity in production and smuggling, empowering a broad range of criminal networks, militant groups, mafia syndicates, and autocratic governments;

Whereas the illicit captagon trade has provided alternative revenue sources for malign actors, such as the Assad regime, Hezbollah, and Iran-aligned militias;

Whereas Hamas terrorists who carried out a surprise attack in Israel on October 7th, 2023, were reported to be under the influence of captagon;

Whereas captagon pills were recovered from pockets of Hamas terrorists who were killed by Israeli Defense Forces;

Whereas the illicit production and trafficking of captagon is a key source of revenue for the Assad regime and its enablers, estimated to be worth over \$10,000,000,000;

Whereas transit and destination countries of captagon currently struggle with interdiction efforts;

Whereas illicit captagon trafficking nodes and production hubs in Syria and Lebanon threaten border security of United States partners and allies;

Whereas United States regional partners such as Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Iraq are seizing more captagon pills in recent years;

Whereas the Middle East region requires greater inter-regional and intraregional coordination to counter the proliferation of captagon;

Whereas there is an absence of any formal or effective regional mechanism or platform to facilitate intelligence sharing or otherwise enable collaboration to counter, dismantle, and disrupt the illicit captagon trade; and

Whereas the United States should help foster increased regional cooperation to counter narcotics measures, particularly the illicit captagon trade: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-  
2 representatives that—

3           (1) the illicit production and trafficking of  
4 captagon is a rapidly growing problem in the Middle  
5 East, with direct involvement of the Assad regime,  
6 and Hezbollah;

7           (2) the United States shall openly condemn the  
8 use of captagon to enhance militant capabilities in  
9 the slaughter 1,400 innocent men, women, children,  
10 and elderly in Israel on October 7th, 2023;

11          (3) the United States should seek to improve  
12 assistance and training to detect, deter, and disrupt  
13 Hezbollah and Fourth Division-facilitated captagon  
14 smuggling operations, as well as broader counter-  
15 narcotics efforts;

16          (4) the United States should build on its report  
17 to Congress on a “Written Strategy to Disrupt and  
18 Dismantle Narcotics Production and Trafficking and  
19 Affiliated Networks Linked to the Regime of Bashar  
20 al-Assad in Syria Sec. 1238(c) of the National De-  
21 fense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023, P.L.  
22 117–263”, and establish an interagency counter-  
23 captagon task force, encouraging regional partners  
24 to undertake cooperative law enforcement measures  
25 that enhance interdiction efforts against illicit

1 captagon trafficking through informational ex-  
2 change, forensic profiling, shared intelligence on  
3 captagon chemical laboratory analyses, port control  
4 unit capacity development, and monitoring precursor  
5 supply flows;

6 (5) the United States should seek to establish  
7 an early warning system for seized captagon shared  
8 amongst key regional partners for improved identi-  
9 fication and reporting; and

10 (6) the United States should highlight the  
11 growing threat posed by the illicit captagon trade to  
12 include the direct involvement of the Assad regime  
13 and Iran-backed proxies like Hamas and Hezbollah,  
14 in international fora, and encourage broader inter-  
15 national coordination, support for afflicted countries,  
16 and accountability for implicated actors.

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