



Advocacy Network for Africa (AdNA)

Washington, DC - August 14, 2025

The Hon. Brian Mast, Chair, House Foreign Affairs Committee
The Hon. Gregory Meeks, Ranking Member, House Foreign Affairs Committee
The Hon. Jim Jordan, Chair, House Judiciary Committee
The Hon. Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee
And All Members of the House Foreign Affairs and Judiciary Committees
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Re: Proposed House Legislation Targeting South Africa's Sovereign Foreign Policy

Dear Honorable Representatives,

On behalf of the Advocacy Network for Africa (AdNA), a coalition of US-based and African civil society, faith-based, and human rights organizations, we write to express our strong opposition to **HR 4051** and **HR 2633**—two bills which seek to penalize the Republic of South Africa for the lawful exercise of foreign policy and engagement with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) as a sovereign country.

The content of both bills would, if adopted, represent an alarming shift toward punitive diplomacy to undermine core American and international principles, including the sovereign equality of nations, multilateral engagement, and peaceful dispute resolution. South Africa, a constitutional democracy with a rich legacy of human rights advocacy, is now being targeted, not for violation of international law, but for upholding it.

HR 4051: *“Addressing Hostile and Antisemitic Conduct by the Republic of South Africa Act of 2025,”* proposes sanctions against South African officials, suspension of aid, and labeling of South Africa’s legal actions as “hostile.” **HR 2633:** *“U.S.–South Africa Bilateral Relations Review Act of 2025,”* mandates a review of US–South Africa relations based on its perceived alignment with nations such as Russia, China, and Iran.

The ICJ case filed by South Africa concerning alleged violations of the Genocide Convention is a legitimate legal proceeding within a globally accepted judicial forum. The right to pursue such action is protected under international law and does not constitute hostility. That such action by South Africa would provoke retaliation from the US Congress is deeply concerning.

Furthermore, the notion that South Africa should be punished for choosing diplomatic or economic relations with certain countries—whether Iran, Russia, China, or others—raises profound concerns about infringement on the foreign policy independence of a sovereign nation. Every country, including South Africa, has the right to determine its alliances based on its national interests and the will of its people. Why should this right be denied to South Africa by the US, a democratic partner?

We wish to emphasize that AdNA members do not support violence or human rights violations from any party, whether Israeli or Palestinian. Our position, like that of many global civil society actors and UN member states, affirms that peace and justice require coexistence—through dialogue, international law, and durable political solutions. The latter includes the long-proposed two-state solution in Israel/Palestine. This is the pathway to true peace and shared security.

Instead of punitive legislation, Congress should enact measures to foster constructive diplomacy, promote equitable international relations, and cultivate mutual respect among sovereign nations. Anything short of such an approach should not be acceptable in a century of history in which the United States led the global community in establishing the United Nations, the ICJ and many of the core conventions and guiding principles.

We urge your committees to reject HR 4051 and HR 2633 and reaffirm the United States' commitment to democratic partnerships, legal pluralism and peaceful international engagement.

Respectfully,

Advocacy Network for Africa (AdNA)

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