

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2587

To carry out the international obligations of the United States under the Geneva Conventions to provide criminal penalties for certain war crimes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 7, 1995

Mr. JONES introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To carry out the international obligations of the United States under the Geneva Conventions to provide criminal penalties for certain war crimes.

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 “War Crimes Act of
5 1995”.

6 **SEC. 2. CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR CERTAIN WAR CRIMES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title 18, United States Code, is
8 amended by inserting after chapter 117 the following:

1 **“CHAPTER 118—WAR CRIMES**

“Sec.
“2401. War crimes.

2 **“§ 2401. War crimes**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Whoever, whether inside or out-
4 side the United States, commits a grave breach of the Ge-
5 neva conventions where the victim of such breach is mem-
6 ber of the armed forces of the United States or a citizen
7 of the United States, shall be fined under this title or im-
8 prisoned for life or any term or years, or both, and if death
9 results to the victim, shall also be subject to the penalty
10 of death.

11 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term
12 ‘grave breach of the Geneva conventions’ means conduct
13 defined as a grave breach in any of the international con-
14 ventions relating to the laws of warfare signed at Geneva
15 12 August 1949 or any protocol to any such convention,
16 to which the United States is a party.”

17 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters
18 for part I of title 18, United States Code, is amended by
19 inserting after the item relating to chapter 117 the follow-
20 ing new item:

“118. War crimes 2401”.

