

# H. R. 3488

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 15, 1947

MR. CASE of New Jersey introduced the following bill; which was referred to  
the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To declare certain rights of citizens of the United States, and for  
the better assurance of the protection of such citizens and  
other persons within the several States from mob violence  
and lynching, and for other purposes.

1        *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2        *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

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### FINDINGS AND POLICY

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SECTION 1. The Congress hereby makes the following

5 findings:

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(a) The duty of each State to refrain from depriving

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any person of life, liberty, or property without due process

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of law, and from denying to any person within its jurisdiction

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the equal protection of the laws, imposes on all States the

1 under article 55 and article 56 of the United Nations Charter;  
2 and

3 (c) To define and punish offenses against the law of  
4 nations.

5 RIGHT TO BE FREE OF LYNCHING

6 SEC. 3. It is hereby declared that the right to be free  
7 from lynching is a right of citizens of the United States,  
8 accruing to them by virtue of such citizenship. Such right  
9 is in addition to any similar rights they may have as citizens  
10 of any of the several States or as persons within their juris-  
11 diction.

12 DEFINITIONS

13 SEC. 4. Any assemblage of two or more persons which  
14 shall, without authority of law, (a) commit or attempt to  
15 commit violence upon the person or property of any citizen  
16 or citizens of the United States because of his or their race,  
17 creed, color, national origin, ancestry, language, or religion,  
18 or (b) exercise or attempt to exercise, by physical violence  
19 against person or property, any power of correction or  
20 punishment over any citizen or citizens of the United States  
21 or other person or persons in the custody of any peace officer  
22 or suspected of, charged with, or convicted of the commission  
23 of any criminal offense, with the purpose or consequence  
24 of preventing the apprehension or trial or punishment by  
25 law of such citizen or citizens, person or persons, or of im-

1 posing a punishment not authorized by law, shall constitute  
2 a lynch mob within the meaning of this Act. Any such  
3 violence by a lynch mob shall constitute lynching within  
4 the meaning of this Act.