

## November 19, 2001: Commission to Hold Hearing on Religious Freedom and the Campaign Against Terrorism

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WASHINGTON - The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, an independent government agency advising the Administration and Congress, will hold a hearing on Tuesday, November 27 in Washington, D.C., titled "Promoting Religious Freedom During the Campaign Against Terrorism." The hearing is scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2226. Background The members of the Commission strongly condemn the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington on September 11, 2001, and mourn the terrible loss of life sustained that day. The Commission supports the U.S. government's strong commitment to respond and stands with our country and the world in fighting terrorism. The Commission is concerned, however, that in forging alliances against terrorism the United States not compromise its commitment to human rights - including religious freedom - and democracy. The Commission opposes such policy trade-offs and has sent this message to the Administration. The Commission is also exploring opportunities for the U.S. government to promote religious freedom in countries with whom we are cooperating in the campaign against terrorism. To date, the confirmed witnesses and schedule are as follows: 9:00-9:15 Welcome and Introductory Remarks by Michael K. Young, Chair Panel I: 9:15-10:15 The World After 9/11: A Strategic Shift in U.S. Foreign Policy? Paula Dobriansky, Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs Morton Halperin, Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations Panel II: 10:20-11:50 Promoting Religious Freedom Within the New Post-9/11 Order: Country and Regional Concerns Tamara Sonn, Professor, College of William and Mary Mamoun Fandy, Professor, National Defense University Amy Hawthorne, Soref Research Fellow, Washington Institute Martha Brill Olcott, Senior Associate, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Sydney Jones, Executive Director, Asia Division, Human Rights Watch Others to be announced 11:50-12:00 Break Panel III: 12:00-1:30 Promoting Religious Freedom Within the New Post-9/11 Order: Policy Tools Ambassador Robert Seiple, Institute for Global Engagement Patrick Merloe, Senior Associate, National Democratic Institute Georges Fauriol, Senior VP for Strategic Planning, International Republican Institute Judith Seigel, Deputy Coordinator of Int'l Information Programs, State Department Others to be announced

Michael K. Young, Chair

- Felice D. Gaer Firuz Kazemzadeh Richard D. Land Bishop William Francis Murphy Leila Nadya Sadat Nina Shea The Hon. Charles R. Stith The Hon. Shirin Tahir-Kheli Steven T. McFarland, Executive Director