

March 3, 2006: USCIRF Delegation Travels to Sri Lanka and Bangladesh

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Anne Johnson, Director of Communications, (202) 523-3240, ext. 27 WASHINGTON - A delegation from the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) traveled to Sri Lanka and Bangladesh February 21 - March 2. Commissioners on the delegation were USCIRF Chair Michael Cromartie, Vice Chair Felice D. Gaer, and Commissioners Preeta D. Bansal. In Sri Lanka, the delegation traveled to Colombo and Galle. In Bangladesh, the delegation traveled to Dhaka. In both countries, the delegation met with a broad range of individuals, including government officials, religious leaders, human rights advocates, civil society representatives, and international observers. The delegation consulted with these individuals on human rights issues, including freedom of thought, conscience, and religion or belief, as protected in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and other instruments.

Michael Cromartie, Chair

- Felice D. Gaer, Vice Chair Nina Shea, Vice Chair Preeta D. Bansal Archbishop Charles J. Chaput Khaled Abou El Fadl Richard D. Land Elizabeth H. Prodromou Bishop Ricardo Ramirez Ambassador John V. Hanford III, Ex-Officio Joseph R. Crapa, Executive Director