

Promoting Religious Freedom During the Campaign Against Terrorism": The Hon. Morton Halperin Written Answers to Follow-up Questions

Q. The governments of some countries that violate religious freedom claim that religious groups also practice or support terrorism. As it interacts with countries in the Campaign Against Terrorism, how can the United States separate legitimate efforts to contain violence from illegitimate repression of religious freedom? A. There is no easy answer to your question. We will face it in the United States as well. Religious groups cannot be out of bounds for criminal investigations but the government must have a specific basis for believing that illegal activities are being carried out under the cover of religion. One safeguard is to require high-level approval and a clear written record before a religious group is subject to surveillance.