

Promoting Religious Freedom During the Campaign Against Terrorism": Panel 2 Subpanel A Introduction

November 27, 2001 CHAIRMAN YOUNG: Thank you very much. We have our next panel assembled, and I very much appreciate all of you joining us. This panel will focus on country and regional concerns in promoting religious freedom in a post-September 11th world. We have broken this panel into two parts. The first will explore the Islamic world in general in the Middle East, focusing on Pakistan and Afghanistan in particular, and the second half is a geographical panel, exploring Central Asia, Afghanistan, Southeast Asia, China and India, and Africa, including especially Sudan. So let me introduce our three panelists for this panel. We have with us Dr. Tamara Sonn, who's a William R. Kenan Distinguished Professor of Humanities in the Department of Religion at the College of William & Mary. She's also President of the American Council for the Study of Islamic Societies. Her areas of specialization are Islamic intellectual history and Islam in the contemporary world. Delighted to have you with us today. She will focus on the Islamic world, including Pakistan and Afghanistan. Dr. Mamoun Fandy is currently Professor of Politics with the National Defense University in Washington, D.C., and previously he was a Research Professor of Politics at Georgetown University Center for Contemporary Arab Studies. He's also the Executive Director of the Council on Egyptian-American Relations, and his research focuses on the politics of the Arab World. Amy Hawthorne is the 2000-2001 Soref Research Fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, where she focuses on democracy and governance in the Arab world. She's currently in the process of completing a comprehensive study of U.S. efforts to promote democracy in the Middle East, soon to be published by the Institute, a topic that has already arisen more than once this morning on this hearing. We have asked each panelist to take 10 minutes for an opening statement, except for Dr. Sonn, who we're giving 13, because you're focusing on two topics. And so we'll ask you to keep your remarks within that time, and then we would like to ask some questions and have some discussion if we may. Thank you. Dr. Sonn?