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WASHINGTON (RNS) A

religious freedom watchdog panel has added Egypt to its list of the worst violators of religious liberty, citing attacks on Coptic Christians that occurred surrounding the downfall of former President Hosni Mubarak.

“The Egyptian government engaged in and tolerated religious freedom violations both before and after President Hosni Mubarak stepped down on Feb. 11,” said Leonard Leo, chairman of the bipartisan

U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom

, which released its report Thursday (April 28).

“In his waning months, religious freedom conditions were rapidly deteriorating and since his departure, we've seen nothing to indicate that these conditions have improved.”