

By **Stephanie Samuel**

<http://www.christianpost.com/news/us-urged-to-step-up-religious-freedom-efforts-in-egypt-50027/>

WASHINGTON – The

U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom

has named, for the first time, Egypt as a country of particular concern (CPC) in its list of 14 countries considered the world's worst violators of religious freedom and has urged the United States to more actively promote religious freedom.

The report, released Thursday, called out Egypt for "systemic, ongoing, egregious violations of religious freedom." Those violations include the January 2011 extremist bombing of a Coptic Christian church that killed 23 and wounded 100.

"In the case of Egypt, instances of severe religious freedom violations engaged in or tolerated by the government have increased dramatically since the release of last year's report, with violence, including murder, escalating against Coptic Christians and other religious minorities," summed

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Chair Leonard Leo in a statement.