



UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON  
INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

April 25, 2018

The Honorable John J. Sullivan  
Acting Secretary of State  
Harry S. Truman Building  
2201 C Street, NW, Room 7226  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Acting Secretary Sullivan:

I am pleased to transmit the 2018 Annual Report of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). This report covers calendar year 2017 and was prepared in compliance with section 202(a)(2) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (IRFA), 22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq., P.L. 105-292, as amended by P.L. 206-55, P.L. 107-228, P.L.112-75, P.L. 114-71, and P.L. 114-281.

The 2018 Annual Report analyzes the U.S. government's implementation of IRFA and provides recommendations to bolster U.S. international religious freedom policy. The report also documents religious freedom conditions in 28 countries and makes country-specific policy recommendations. It:

- Recommends that the Secretary of State re-designate 10 countries as “countries of particular concern,” or CPCs, under IRFA for systematic, ongoing, egregious religious freedom violations: Burma, China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan;
- Recommends that six additional countries be designated as CPCs: Central African Republic, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russia, Syria, and Vietnam;
- Recommends that three entities be designated as “entities of particular concern” for religious freedom violations under IRFA, as amended: the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), the Taliban in Afghanistan, and al-Shabaab in Somalia; and
- Urges increased U.S. government attention to 12 countries placed on USCIRF's Tier 2: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cuba, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Laos, Malaysia, and Turkey.

USCIRF concludes that the adoption of the recommendations found in the Annual Report would considerably advance U.S. efforts to protect and promote the universal right to freedom of religion or belief worldwide.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these policy recommendations with you.

Sincerely,



Daniel Mark  
Chairman



UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON  
INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

April 27, 2018

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, 1st Floor, West Wing  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

I am pleased to transmit the 2018 Annual Report of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). This report covers calendar year 2017 and was prepared in compliance with section 202(a)(2) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (IRFA), 22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq., P.L. 105-292, as amended by P.L. 206-55, P.L. 107-228, P.L.112-75, P.L. 114-71, and P.L. 114-281.

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Daniel Mark  
Chairman



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INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

April 25, 2018

The Honorable Orrin Hatch  
President Pro Tempore of the Senate  
Capitol Building, S-125  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hatch:

I am pleased to transmit the 2018 Annual Report of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). This report covers calendar year 2017 and was prepared in compliance with section 202(a)(2) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (IRFA), 22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq., P.L. 105-292, as amended by P.L. 206-55, P.L. 107-228, P.L. 112-75, P.L. 114-71, and P.L. 114-281.

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Daniel Mark  
Chairman



UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON  
INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

April 25, 2018

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Capitol Building, H-232  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

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