



UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON
INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

April 29, 2016

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am pleased to transmit the 2016 Annual Report of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). This report covers the period of February 2015 through February 2016 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, and P.L. 114-71.

The 2016 Annual Report documents religious freedom abuses and violations in more than 30 countries and makes county-specific policy recommendations. It:

- Recommends that the Secretary of State re-designate 10 countries as “countries of particular concern,” or CPCs, under IRFA for egregious religious freedom violations: Burma, China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan;
- Recommends that seven additional countries be designated as CPCs: Central African Republic, Egypt, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, Syria, and Vietnam;
- Urges increased U.S. government attention to 10 countries placed on USCIRF’s Tier 2: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Cuba, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Laos, Malaysia, Russia, and Turkey; and
- Highlights concerns in Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, the Horn of Africa, and Western Europe.

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,



Robert P. George
Chairman



UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON
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April 29, 2016

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Kerry:

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Robert P. George
Chairman



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April 29, 2016

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

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Robert P. George
Chairman



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April 29, 2016

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
President Pro Tempore of the Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hatch:

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