April 29, 2016

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

Dear Mr. President:


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
April 29, 2016

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

Dear Secretary Kerry:


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Sincerely,

Robert P. George
Chairman
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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Sincerely,

Robert P. George
Chairman
April 29, 2016

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

Dear Senator Hatch:


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

Sincerely,

Robert P. George  
Chairman