



UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON
INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

April 30, 2014

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

Dear Mr. President:

I am pleased to transmit the 2014 Annual Report of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), *15th Anniversary Retrospective: Renewing the Commitment*. This report covers the period of January 2013 through January 2014 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 and P.L.112-75.

The 15th Annual Report focuses on U.S. religious freedom policy over the past decade and a half and makes recommendations for the future. The Report discusses what IRFA requires and how all administrations since its passage have implemented, or failed to implement, its provisions. Looking forward, it recommends ways to strengthen U.S. engagement to promote freedom of religion or belief more effectively. With religious freedom abuses occurring daily around the world against people of all faiths and none, it is critical that the United States bear witness to these violations and recommit itself to meeting these challenges.

The 2014 Annual Report also documents religious freedom abuses and violations in 33 countries and makes country-specific policy recommendations. It:

- Recommends that the Secretary of State re-designate eight countries as “countries of particular concern,” or CPCs, under IRFA for egregious religious freedom violations: Burma, China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Uzbekistan;
- Recommends that eight additional countries be designated as CPCs: Egypt, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, 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, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan, Sri Lanka, 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
INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

April 30, 2014

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

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Sincerely,



Robert P. George, Chairman



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April 30, 2014

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
President Pro Tempore of the Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

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Robert P. George, Chairman



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April 30, 2014

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

Dear Secretary Kerry:

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