



UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON
INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

April 30, 2015

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

Dear Mr. President:

I am pleased to transmit the 2015 Annual Report of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). This report covers the period of January 2014 through January 2015 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 2015 Annual Report documents religious freedom abuses and violations in 33 countries and makes county-specific policy recommendations. It:

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

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,



Katrina Lantos Swett, Chair



UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON
INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

April 30, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

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Katrina Lantos Swett, Chair



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April 30, 2015

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

Dear Senator Hatch:

I am pleased to transmit the 2015 Annual Report of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). This report covers the period of January 2014 through January 2015 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.

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Katrina Lantos Swett, Chair



UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON
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April 30, 2015

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

Dear Secretary Kerry:

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