



UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON
INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

April 30, 2019

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 [2019 Annual Report](#) of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). This report covers calendar year 2018 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.

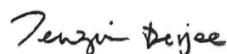
The 2019 Annual Report analyzes the U.S. government's implementation of IRFA and provides recommendations to bolster U.S. international religious freedom policy. The report also documents religious freedom conditions in 28 countries and makes country-specific policy recommendations. It:

- Recommends that the Secretary of State redesignate 10 countries as “countries of particular concern,” or CPCs, under IRFA for systematic, ongoing, egregious religious freedom violations: Burma, China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan;
- Recommends that six additional countries be designated as CPCs: Central African Republic, Nigeria, Russia, Syria, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam;
- Recommends that five 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, Houthis in Yemen, and Hay’at al-Sham (HTS) in Syria; 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,



Tenzin Dorjee
Chair

732 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NW SUITE A714 | WASHINGTON, DC 20401 | (202) 523-3240

Tenzin Dorjee, Chair • Kristina Arriaga de Bucholz, Vice Chair • Gayle Conelly Manchin, Vice Chair
Gary L. Bauer • Anurima Bhargava • Andy Khawaja • Nadine Maenza • Johnnie Moore • Tony Perkins
Erin D. Singhsinsuk, Executive Director
www.uscirf.gov



UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON
INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

April 30, 2019

The Honorable Michael R. Pompeo
Secretary of State
Harry S. Truman Building
2201 C Street, NW, Room 7226
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Pompeo:

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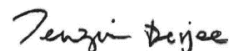
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INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

April 30, 2019

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

Dear Madam Speaker:

I am pleased to transmit the [2019 Annual Report](#) of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). This report covers calendar year 2018 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.

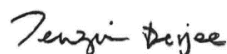
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Chair



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April 30, 2019

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

Dear Senator Grassley:

I am pleased to transmit the [2019 Annual Report](#) of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). This report covers calendar year 2018 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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