



UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON
INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

March 20, 2012

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

Dear Mr. President:

I am pleased to transmit the 2012 Annual Report of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). This report covers the period of April 2011 through February 2012 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 2012 Annual Report documents religious freedom abuses and violations in 25 countries around the world. The Annual Report:

- Recommends that the Secretary of State designate the following eight additional “countries of particular concern,” or CPCs, under IRFA for egregious violations of religious freedom: Egypt, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Vietnam.
- Recommends that eight countries be re-designated as CPCs: Burma, China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Uzbekistan – and that additional actions be taken;
- Documents violations of religious freedom in countries placed on the USCIRF Watch List and urges increased U.S. government responses: Afghanistan, Belarus, Cuba, India, Indonesia, Laos, Russia, Somalia, and Venezuela.
- Highlights the alarming rise in religiously-related violence that governments have failed to redress through investigation, prosecution, and punishment and the national security implications of prioritizing religious freedom.

USCIRF concludes that the adoption of these and other 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,



Leonard Leo
Chair



UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON
INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

March 20, 2012

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am pleased to transmit the 2012 Annual Report of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). This report covers the period of April 2011 through February 2012 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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Leonard Leo
Chair



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March 20, 2012

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
President Pro Tempore of the Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Inouye:

I am pleased to transmit the 2012 Annual Report of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). This report covers the period of April 2011 through February 2012 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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Leonard Leo
Chair



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March 20, 2012

The Honorable Hillary Clinton
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

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