



UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON
INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

April 30, 2013

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

Dear Mr. President:

I am pleased to transmit the 2013 Annual Report of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). This report covers the period of January 2012 through January 2013 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 2013 Annual Report documents religious freedom abuses and violations in 29 countries around the world. The Annual Report:

- Recommends that the Secretary of State re-designate eight countries as “countries of particular concern,” or CPCs, under IRFA for egregious violations of religious freedom and that additional actions be taken: Burma, China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Uzbekistan.
- Recommends that seven additional countries be designated as CPCs: Egypt, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Vietnam.
- Documents violations of religious freedom in countries placed on USCIRF’s Tier 2 and urges increased U.S. government responses: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Cuba, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Laos, and Russia.
- Highlights concerns in Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Ethiopia, Turkey, Venezuela, and Western Europe, analyzes transnational issues and trends, and discusses issues relevant to religious freedom and related rights in international organizations.

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, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

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April 30, 2013

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

Dear Senator Leahy:

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Katrina Lantos Swett
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April 30, 2013

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

Dear Secretary Kerry:

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