

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1323

To amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to further express United States foreign policy with respect to, and to strengthen United States advocacy on behalf of, freedom of religion or belief abroad and individuals persecuted in foreign countries on account of religion or belief, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 4, 2015

Mr. PITTS (for himself, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. SALMON, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. CHABOT, and Mr. BILIRAKIS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to further express United States foreign policy with respect to, and to strengthen United States advocacy on behalf of, freedom of religion or belief abroad and individuals persecuted in foreign countries on account of religion or belief, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the  
 3 “Shahbaz Bhatti International Religious Freedom Act of  
 4 2015”.

5 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for  
 6 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings; policy.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF STATE ACTIVITIES

- Sec. 101. Office on International Religious Freedom; Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom.
- Sec. 102. Reports.
- Sec. 103. Training for Foreign Service officers.
- Sec. 104. Programs and allocations of funds by United States missions abroad.
- Sec. 105. Prisoner lists and issue briefs on religious freedom concerns.
- Sec. 106. Report on foreign assistance to promote religious freedom and religious engagement.
- Sec. 107. Reports on countries not designated as countries of particular concern for religious freedom.

TITLE II—UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL  
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

- Sec. 201. Report of the Commission.

TITLE III—NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

- Sec. 301. Special Adviser on International Religious Freedom.

TITLE IV—PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

- Sec. 401. Presidential actions in response to violations of religious freedom.
- Sec. 402. Presidential actions in response to particularly severe violations of religious freedom.
- Sec. 403. Consultations.
- Sec. 404. Description of Presidential actions.
- Sec. 405. Presidential waiver.
- Sec. 406. Termination of Presidential actions.

TITLE V—PROMOTION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

- Sec. 501. Assistance for promoting religious freedom.
- Sec. 502. International broadcasting.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; POLICY.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Section 2(a) of the International Re-  
3 ligious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401(a)) is  
4 amended—

5 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through  
6 (7) as paragraphs (4) through (8), respectively;

7 (2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-  
8 lowing new paragraph:

9 “(3) International religious freedom means the  
10 right of all persons to fully enjoy freedom of religion  
11 or belief, as protected by international law, and ap-  
12 plies to the holders of all religious beliefs and those  
13 who reject religious belief altogether.”;

14 (3) in paragraph (5) (as so redesignated)—

15 (A) by striking the second and third sen-  
16 tences and inserting the following: “More than  
17 76 percent of the world’s population live in  
18 countries in which religion is restricted in sig-  
19 nificant ways, either by the government or by  
20 societal non-state actors. These limitations se-  
21 verely restrict or prohibit the freedom of people  
22 to study, believe, observe, and freely practice  
23 the religious faith of their choice.”; and

24 (B) by adding at the end the following new  
25 sentence: “Other governmental violations in-  
26 clude registration laws, laws limiting or prohib-

1           iting religious dress or symbols, anti-conversion  
2           laws, blasphemy laws, and apostasy laws.”;

3           (4) by further redesignating paragraphs (7) and  
4           (8) (as so redesignated) as paragraphs (9) and (12),  
5           respectively;

6           (5) by inserting after paragraph (6) the fol-  
7           lowing new paragraphs:

8           “(7) In addition to governments, non-state ac-  
9           tors severely violate freedom of religion or belief.  
10          These actors include individuals, mobs, vigilante  
11          groups, anti-government insurgents, militant organi-  
12          zations, and recognized terrorist groups. In those  
13          cases in which governments’ legal systems promote  
14          intolerance, non-state actors often act unilaterally to  
15          enforce these biased measures.

16          “(8) Over the past 15 years, the global land-  
17          scape for religious freedom has deteriorated. While  
18          authoritarian governments continue to persecute in-  
19          dividuals, unchecked majoritarianism against reli-  
20          gious minorities and increasing acts of violence by  
21          religious extremists against any who challenge their  
22          ideologies are troubling new threats to this funda-  
23          mental freedom. Such violence includes the 2011 as-  
24          sassination of Pakistan’s Minister of Minority Af-

1       fairs, Shahbaz Bhatti, an advocate for religious free-  
2       dom.”;

3               (6) by inserting after paragraph (9) (as so re-  
4       designated) the following new paragraphs:

5               “(10) Freedom of religion or belief also is cen-  
6       tral to a country’s stability and security. Religious  
7       freedom abuses are linked to abuses of other human  
8       rights, and to instability and violent extremism.  
9       Wherever religious freedom is abused, peace and se-  
10      curity may be threatened, affecting societies and in  
11      some cases the security of the United States. As  
12      such, religious freedom merits consideration with  
13      economic, security, and other concerns.

14              “(11) The United States must do more to pro-  
15      mote freedom of religion or belief overseas. This fun-  
16      damental freedom is under serious and sustained  
17      pressure across much of the globe.”; and

18              (7) by striking paragraph (12) (as so redesign-  
19      ated) and inserting the following:

20              “(12) Congress has recognized and denounced  
21      acts of religious persecution through the passage of  
22      the following measures and adoption of the following  
23      resolutions:

24                      “(A) H.R. 2330 of the One Hundred  
25                      Eighth Congress, which became Public Law

1 108–61, prohibiting the importation into the  
2 United States of any article that is a product  
3 of Burma (Myanmar) until the President deter-  
4 mines and certifies to Congress that Burma has  
5 met certain conditions, including the releasing  
6 of all political prisoners and permitting the  
7 peaceful exercise of religion.

8 “(B) H.R. 4011 of the One Hundred  
9 Eighth Congress, which became Public Law  
10 108–333, the North Korea Human Rights Act  
11 of 2004, which directs the Secretary of State  
12 and the Secretary of Homeland Security to re-  
13 port annually on measures taken to facilitate  
14 access to the United States refugee program by  
15 persons fleeing countries of particular concern  
16 for violations of religious freedom.

17 “(C) H.R. 6198 of the One Hundred  
18 Ninth Congress, which became Public Law  
19 109–293, the Iran Freedom Support Act, which  
20 holds the current regime in Iran accountable  
21 for its threatening behavior and supports a  
22 transition to democracy in Iran and states that  
23 assistance may be provided only to an indi-  
24 vidual, organization, or entity that supports  
25 freedom of religion while also expressing the

1 sense of Congress that U.S. officials and rep-  
2 resentatives should draw international attention  
3 to Iran’s violations of human rights and free-  
4 dom of religion.

5 “(D) House Resolution 1370 of the One  
6 Hundred Tenth Congress, calling on the Gov-  
7 ernment of the People’s Republic of China to  
8 immediately end abuses of the human rights of  
9 its citizens, to cease repression of Tibetan and  
10 Uyghur people, and to end its support for the  
11 Governments of Sudan and Burma to ensure  
12 that the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games take  
13 place in an atmosphere that honors the Olympic  
14 traditions of freedom and openness.

15 “(E) House Resolution 944 of the One  
16 Hundred Eleventh Congress, expressing the  
17 sense of the House of Representatives on the  
18 protection of members of vulnerable religious  
19 and ethnic minority communities in Iraq.

20 “(F) House Resolution 134 of the One  
21 Hundred Twelfth Congress, condemning the  
22 Government of Iran for its state-sponsored per-  
23 secution of its Baha’i minority and its contin-  
24 ued violation of the International Covenants on  
25 Human Rights.

1           “(G) House Resolution 306 of the One  
2           Hundred Twelfth Congress, urging the Republic  
3           of Turkey to safeguard its Christian heritage  
4           and to return confiscated church properties.

5           “(H) House Resolution 484 of the One  
6           Hundred Twelfth Congress, calling on the Gov-  
7           ernment of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to  
8           respect basic human rights and cease abusing  
9           vague national security provisions such as arti-  
10          cles 79 and 88 of the Vietnamese penal code  
11          which are often the pretext to arrest and detain  
12          citizens who peacefully advocate for religious  
13          and political freedom.

14          “(I) House Resolution 556 of the One  
15          Hundred and Twelfth Congress, condemning  
16          the Government of Iran for its continued perse-  
17          cution, imprisonment, and sentencing of Youcef  
18          Nadarkhani on the charge of apostasy.

19          “(J) H.R. 515 of the One Hundred  
20          Twelfth Congress, which became Public Law  
21          112–81, to reauthorize the Belarus Democracy  
22          Act of 2004, which authorizes the denial of  
23          United States entry to members of the security  
24          or law enforcement services who have partici-



1 pated in the persecution of religious groups or  
2 human rights defenders.

3 “(K) House Resolution 418 of the One  
4 Hundred and Thirteenth Congress, urging the  
5 Government of Burma to end the persecution of  
6 the Rohingya people and respect internationally  
7 recognized human rights for all ethnic and reli-  
8 gious minority groups.

9 “(L) House Resolution 599 of the One  
10 Hundred Thirteenth Congress, urging the Gov-  
11 ernment of the People’s Republic of China to  
12 respect the freedom of assembly, expression,  
13 and religion and all fundamental human rights  
14 and the rule of law for all its citizens and to  
15 stop censoring discussion of the 1989 Tianan-  
16 men Square demonstrations and their violent  
17 suppression.

18 “(M) House Resolution 683 of the One  
19 Hundred Thirteenth Congress, expressing the  
20 sense of the House of Representatives on the  
21 current situation in Iraq and the urgent need to  
22 protect religious minorities from the persecution  
23 from the Sunni Islamist insurgent and terrorist  
24 group the Islamic State in Iraq and Levant

1 (ISIL) as it expands its control over areas in  
2 northwestern Iraq.

3 “(N) House Resolution 707 of the One  
4 Hundred Thirteenth Congress, condemning all  
5 forms of anti-Semitism and rejecting attempts  
6 to justify anti-Jewish hatred or violent attacks  
7 as an acceptable expression of disapproval or  
8 frustration over political events in the Middle  
9 East or elsewhere.

10 “(O) H.R. 301 of the One Hundred Thir-  
11 teenth Congress, which became Public 113–161,  
12 to provide for the establishment of the Special  
13 Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Reli-  
14 gious Minorities in the Near East and South  
15 Central Asia.

16 “(P) House Resolution 754 of the One  
17 Hundred Thirteenth Congress, condemning the  
18 Government of Iran for its gross human rights  
19 violations.”.

20 (b) POLICY.—Section 2(b) of the International Reli-  
21 gious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401(b)) is amend-  
22 ed—

23 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through  
24 (5) as paragraphs (3) through (6), respectively;

1           (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-  
2           lowing new paragraph:

3           “(2) To ensure that religious freedom is a cen-  
4           tral component of United States foreign policy and  
5           receives the appropriate prioritization across govern-  
6           ment agencies, including in bilateral diplomacy, mul-  
7           tilateral diplomacy, public diplomacy, and pro-  
8           grammatic activities of the United States govern-  
9           ment.”;

10          (3) in paragraph (4) (as so redesignated), by  
11          inserting “and non-state actors” after “persecuting  
12          regimes”; and

13          (4) by adding at the end the following new  
14          paragraphs:

15          “(7) To work in coalition with international  
16          partners in support of religious freedom in those  
17          countries whose governments violate religious free-  
18          dom or do not take action against those who violate  
19          religious freedom or in those cases in which non-  
20          state actors perpetrate violations of religious free-  
21          dom.

22          “(8) To work with foreign governments and in  
23          international fora to support rule of law, good gov-  
24          ernance, and a vigorous civil society and advocate in

1 support of prisoners of conscience abroad whose de-  
 2 tentions violate their freedom of religion or belief.”.

3 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

4 Section 3 of the International Religious Freedom Act  
 5 of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6402) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (13)(A)—

7 (A) in clause (iv), by striking “or” at the  
 8 end; and

9 (B) by adding at the end the following new  
 10 clause:

11 “(vi) having no religious beliefs; or”;

12 and

13 (2) by adding at the end the following new  
 14 paragraph:

15 “(14) NON-STATE ACTOR.—The term ‘non-state  
 16 actor’ means any entity outside of government, in-  
 17 cluding an extremist group or terrorist organiza-  
 18 tion.”.

19 **TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF**  
 20 **STATE ACTIVITIES**

21 **SEC. 101. OFFICE ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREE-**  
 22 **DOM; AMBASSADOR AT LARGE FOR INTER-**  
 23 **NATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.**

24 (a) APPOINTMENT.—Section 101(b) of the Inter-  
 25 national Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C.

1 6411(b)) is amended by adding at the end before the pe-  
2 riod the following: “, and shall report directly to the Sec-  
3 retary of State”.

4 (b) **ADVISORY ROLE.**—Section 101(c)(2) of the Inter-  
5 national Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C.  
6 6411(c)(2)) is amended by striking “a principal adviser”  
7 and inserting “the principal adviser”.

8 **SEC. 102. REPORTS.**

9 (a) **ANNUAL REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS**  
10 **FREEDOM; DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION.**—Section  
11 102(b)(1) of the International Religious Freedom Act of  
12 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6412(b)(1)) is amended—

13 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

14 (A) in clause (ii), by adding at the end be-  
15 fore the semicolon the following: “or per-  
16 petrated by non-state actors”;

17 (B) in clause (iii)—

18 (i) by adding at the end before the  
19 semicolon the following: “or perpetrated by  
20 non-state actors”; and

21 (ii) by striking “and” at the end;

22 (C) by redesignating clause (iv) as clause  
23 (vii); and

24 (D) by inserting after clause (iii) (as so  
25 amended) the following new clauses:

1 “(iv) particularly severe violations of  
2 religious freedom occurring in the country  
3 but where a government does not exist or  
4 the government does not control its terri-  
5 tory;

6 “(v) an identification of whether the  
7 country is designated or re-designated as a  
8 country of particular concern for religious  
9 freedom under section 402 and, if the  
10 country is designated or re-designated as a  
11 country of particular concern for religious  
12 freedom, a description of the presidential  
13 action or actions that have been taken with  
14 respect to the country as described in sec-  
15 tion 402;

16 “(vi) an identification of prisoners in  
17 that country pursuant to section 108;  
18 and”; and

19 (2) in subparagraph (C)—

20 (A) by striking “A description” and insert-  
21 ing “A comprehensive description”;

22 (B) by striking “the measures” and insert-  
23 ing “the specific measures”; and

24 (C) by adding at the end before the period  
25 the following: “and an analysis of the impact of

1           such actions and policies on the status of reli-  
2           gious freedom in the country”.

3           (b) ANNUAL REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS  
4 FREEDOM; CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS AND BRIEFINGS  
5 REQUIRED.—Section 102(b) of the International Reli-  
6 gious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6412(b)) is amend-  
7 ed by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

8           “(3) CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS AND BRIEF-  
9           INGS REQUIRED.—The Committee on Foreign Af-  
10          fairs of the House of Representatives and the Com-  
11          mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate shall, not  
12          later than 30 days after the receipt by Congress of  
13          the report submitted under paragraph (1), hold  
14          hearings on the report, including any recommenda-  
15          tions contained therein, and not later than 180 days  
16          after the date of completion of such hearings, the  
17          Ambassador at Large shall meet with such Commit-  
18          tees to brief such Committees on the report and on  
19          progress to date with respect to implementation of  
20          such recommendations.”.

21          (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
22 this section take effect on the date of the enactment of  
23 this Act and apply with respect to each Annual Report  
24 on International Religious Freedom that is required to be  
25 submitted to Congress under section 102 of the Inter-

1 national Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6412)  
2 (as so amended) on or after such date of enactment.

3 **SEC. 103. TRAINING FOR FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 708 of  
5 the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4028) is  
6 amended by inserting “members of the United States  
7 Commission on International Religious Freedom,” after  
8 “International Religious Freedom Act of 1998,”.

9 (b) OTHER REQUIRED TRAINING.—Section 708 of  
10 the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4028) is  
11 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-  
12 section:

13 “(d) The Secretary of State, with the assistance of  
14 other relevant officials as specified in subsection (a), shall  
15 ensure that the standard training described in such sub-  
16 section shall, at a minimum, be a required segment of each  
17 of the following:

18 “(1) The A–100 course attended by all officers  
19 of the Service.

20 “(2) The courses required of all officers of the  
21 Service prior to a posting abroad, tailored to the re-  
22 ligious demography, status of religious freedom, and  
23 United States strategies for advancing religious free-  
24 dom in the country of posting.



1           “(3) The courses required of all deputy chiefs  
2           of mission and all chiefs of mission.”.

3           (c) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date  
4 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in  
5 consultation with the Ambassador at Large for Inter-  
6 national Religious Freedom and the Director of the Na-  
7 tional Foreign Affairs Training Center, shall submit to the  
8 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representa-  
9 tives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Sen-  
10 ate a comprehensive plan for administering training of  
11 Foreign Service officers required under section 708 of the  
12 Foreign Service Act (22 U.S.C. 4028), as amended by this  
13 section.

14 **SEC. 104. PROGRAMS AND ALLOCATIONS OF FUNDS BY**  
15 **UNITED STATES MISSIONS ABROAD.**

16           Section 106 of the International Religious Freedom  
17 Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6415) is amended—

18           (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by  
19 striking “sense of the Congress” and inserting “pol-  
20 icy of the United States”; and

21           (2) in paragraphs (1) and (2), by striking  
22 “should” each place it appears and inserting “shall”.

1 **SEC. 105. PRISONER LISTS AND ISSUE BRIEFS ON RELI-**  
2 **GIUS FREEDOM CONCERNS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 108(b) of the Inter-  
4 national Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C.  
5 6417(b)) is amended by inserting “the United States  
6 Commission on International Religious Freedom,” after  
7 “United States chiefs of mission abroad.”

8 (b) AVAILABILITY OF LISTS.—Section 108(c) of the  
9 International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C.  
10 6417(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:  
11 “In addition, the Secretary of State shall transmit the lists  
12 of persons imprisoned, detained, or placed under house ar-  
13 rest prepared under subsection (b) not later than 180 days  
14 after the enactment of the Shahbaz Bhatti International  
15 Religious Freedom Act of 2015, and every 180 days there-  
16 after, to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Com-  
17 mittee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives,  
18 the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee  
19 on Appropriations of the Senate, the Tom Lantos Human  
20 Rights Commission, and the Senate Human Rights Cau-  
21 cus.”.

22 **SEC. 106. REPORT ON FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO PROMOTE**  
23 **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND RELIGIOUS EN-**  
24 **GAGEMENT.**

25 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in coordi-  
26 nation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of

1 Homeland Security, and the Secretary of the Treasury,  
2 shall submit to Congress a report on the best uses of for-  
3 eign assistance to promote the goals of religious freedom  
4 and religious engagement, while also making a distinction  
5 between these two goals.

6 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection  
7 (a) shall address how assistance and other United States  
8 government actions can strengthen the protection of reli-  
9 gious minorities and dissenters, strengthen democratic in-  
10 stitutions, and foster a vibrant civil society, and create  
11 civic space for religious debate and discussion.

12 (c) DEADLINE.—The report required by subsection  
13 (a) shall be submitted to Congress not later than 180 days  
14 after the date on which the first Annual Report on Inter-  
15 national Religious Freedom required under section 102(b)  
16 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22  
17 U.S.C. 6412(b)) is submitted to Congress after the date  
18 of the enactment of this Act.

19 (d) HEARINGS AND BRIEFINGS.—The information  
20 contained in the report required by subsection (a) report  
21 shall be included in the congressional hearings and brief-  
22 ings required in paragraph (3) of section 102(b) of the  
23 International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C.  
24 6412(b)) (as added by section 102(b) of this Act).

1 **SEC. 107. REPORTS ON COUNTRIES NOT DESIGNATED AS**  
2 **COUNTRIES OF PARTICULAR CONCERN FOR**  
3 **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the  
5 date on which the President designates countries as a  
6 country of particular concern for religious freedom under  
7 section 402 of the International Religious Freedom Act  
8 of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442), the Comptroller General of the  
9 United States shall submit to Congress a report on the  
10 lack of designation by the President of any other countries  
11 recommended for such designation by the United States  
12 Commission on International Religious Freedom.

13 (b) **REPORT RELATING TO PAKISTAN.**—In addition  
14 to the report required by subsection (a), the Comptroller  
15 General of the United States shall submit to Congress a  
16 report that focuses specifically on the lack of designation  
17 by the President of Pakistan as a country of particular  
18 concern for religious freedom under section 402 of the  
19 International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C.  
20 6442) despite the repeated recommendation for such des-  
21 ignation by the United States Commission on Inter-  
22 national Religious Freedom.

1 **TITLE II—UNITED STATES COM-**  
2 **MISSION ON INTERNATIONAL**  
3 **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

4 **SEC. 201. REPORT OF THE COMMISSION.**

5 Section 205 of the International Religious Freedom  
6 Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6433) is amended by adding at  
7 the end the following new subsection:

8 “(d) CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS AND BRIEFINGS  
9 REQUIRED.—The Committee on Foreign Affairs of the  
10 House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign  
11 Relations of the Senate shall, not later than 30 days after  
12 the receipt by Congress of the report submitted under sub-  
13 section (a), hold hearings on the report, including any rec-  
14 ommendations contained therein, and not later than 180  
15 days after the date of completion of such hearings, the  
16 Commission shall meet with such Committees on the re-  
17 port and on progress with respect to implementation of  
18 such recommendations to date.”

19 **TITLE III—NATIONAL SECURITY**  
20 **COUNCIL**

21 **SEC. 301. SPECIAL ADVISER ON INTERNATIONAL RELI-**  
22 **GIUS FREEDOM.**

23 Section 101(k) of the National Security Act of 1947  
24 (50 U.S.C. 3021(k)) is amended in the first sentence by  
25 inserting “senior” before “director”.

1           **TITLE IV—PRESIDENTIAL**  
2                           **ACTIONS**

3   **SEC. 401. PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO VIOLA-**  
4                           **TIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.**

5           (a) RESPONSE TO VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREE-  
6   DOM.—Section 401(a)(1) of the International Religious  
7   Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6441(a)(1)) is amend-  
8   ed—

9           (1) in subparagraph (A)(i), by adding at the  
10   end before the semicolon the following: “or carried  
11   out by non-state actors in that country”; and

12           (2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting before “,  
13   the President” the following: “and for each foreign  
14   country in which non-state actors carry out viola-  
15   tions of religious freedom”.

16           (b) PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS.—Section 401(b)(2) of  
17   the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22  
18   U.S.C. 6441(b)(2)) is amended—

19           (1) by striking “September 1 of each year” and  
20   inserting “30 days after the date on which each re-  
21   port is submitted under section 102(b)”;

22           (2) by striking “action” and inserting “1 or  
23   more of the actions”;

1           (3) by inserting “or in which non-state actors  
2           in that country carried out violations of religious  
3           freedom” before “at any time”;

4           (4) by striking “September 1 of the preceding  
5           year” and inserting “the previous such report was  
6           submitted”; and

7           (5) by striking “thereto)” and all that follows  
8           and inserting “thereto) the action may only be taken  
9           after the President certifies to Congress that the re-  
10          quirements of sections 403 and 404 have been satis-  
11          fied.”.

12          (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—Section 401(c)(1)(B) of the  
13          International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C.  
14          6441(c)(1)(B)) is amended by inserting “or the non-state  
15          actors in that country,” after “special officials thereof,”.

16          (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
17          this section take effect on the date of the enactment of  
18          this Act and apply with respect to each Annual Report  
19          on International Religious Freedom that is required to be  
20          submitted to Congress under section 102 of the Inter-  
21          national Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6412)  
22          (as so amended) on or after such date of enactment.

1 **SEC. 402. PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO PAR-**  
2 **TICULARLY SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELI-**  
3 **GIOUS FREEDOM.**

4 (a) RESPONSE TO PARTICULARLY SEVERE VIOLA-  
5 TIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.—Section 402(a) of the  
6 International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C.  
7 6442(a)) is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (1)(A), by adding at the end  
9 before the semicolon the following: “or carried out  
10 by non-state actors”; and

11 (2) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, or a non-  
12 state actor has carried out,” after “engaged in or  
13 tolerated”.

14 (b) DESIGNATION OF COUNTRIES OF PARTICULAR  
15 CONCERN FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.—Section 402(b) of  
16 the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22  
17 U.S.C. 6442(b)) is amended—

18 (1) in paragraph (1)—

19 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

20 (i) by striking “September 1 of each  
21 year” and inserting “30 days after the  
22 date on which each report is submitted  
23 under section 102(b)”;

24 (ii) by striking “whether” and insert-  
25 ing “whether, during the preceding 12  
26 months,”;



1 (iii) by inserting “, or in which a non-  
2 state actor has carried out,” after “en-  
3 gaged in or tolerated” each place it ap-  
4 pears; and

5 (iv) by striking “during the preceding  
6 12 months or since the date of the last re-  
7 view of that country under this subpara-  
8 graph, whichever period is longer”; and

9 (B) in subparagraph (C)—

10 (i) by inserting “or non-state actor”  
11 after “foreign country”; and

12 (ii) by striking “and may take place  
13 any time prior to September 1 of the re-  
14 spective year” and inserting “and before  
15 the date on which the report is submitted  
16 under section 102(b)”;

17 (2) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, or the  
18 non-state actor specifically responsible for the par-  
19 ticularly severe violations of religious freedom,” after  
20 “by that government”;

21 (3) in paragraph (3)—

22 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph  
23 (A), by striking “as soon as practicable” and  
24 inserting “not later than 30 days”;

1 (B) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
2 “and” at the end;

3 (C) in subparagraph (B), by striking the  
4 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

5 (D) by adding at the end the following new  
6 subparagraph:

7 “(C) the actions taken, the purposes of the  
8 actions taken, and evaluation of any previous  
9 actions taken pursuant to a designation by the  
10 President of a country as a country of par-  
11 ticular concern for religious freedom under this  
12 section.”; and

13 (4) by adding at the end the following new  
14 paragraph:

15 “(4) TERMINATION.—A country that has been  
16 designated a country of particular concern for reli-  
17 gious freedom under this section retains such des-  
18 ignation until the President determines such des-  
19 ignation should be terminated and submits to the  
20 appropriate congressional committees a report that  
21 includes the reasons for such termination.”.

22 (c) PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS WITH RESPECT TO  
23 COUNTRIES OF PARTICULAR CONCERN FOR RELIGIOUS  
24 FREEDOM.—Section 402(c)(5) of the International Reli-

1 gious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442(c)(5)) is  
2 amended—

3 (1) in the second sentence—

4 (A) by striking “must” and inserting  
5 “shall”;

6 (B) by striking “he determines” and in-  
7 serting “the President determines”; and

8 (C) by adding at the end before the period  
9 the following: “and include a description of the  
10 impact of the designation of such sanction or  
11 sanctions”; and

12 (2) by adding at the end the following new sen-  
13 tence: “The President shall submit to the Committee  
14 on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives  
15 and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Sen-  
16 ate a report that explains why the decision was  
17 made to designate the specific sanction or sanctions  
18 which the President determines satisfy the require-  
19 ments of this subsection.”.

20 **SEC. 403. CONSULTATIONS.**

21 Section 403(a) of the International Religious Free-  
22 dom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6443(a)) is amended by strik-  
23 ing “As soon as practicable” and inserting “Not later than  
24 30 days”.

1 **SEC. 404. DESCRIPTION OF PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 405(a) of the Inter-  
3 national Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C.  
4 6445(a)) is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (9) through  
6 (15) as paragraphs (10) through (16), respectively;  
7 and

8 (2) by inserting after paragraph (8) the fol-  
9 lowing new paragraph:

10 “(9) The raising of concerns and initiation of  
11 actions through multilateral and regional bodies.”

12 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The International  
13 Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.)  
14 is amended in sections 3(3), 401(c)(2), 402(c)(1)(A),  
15 403(a), 404(a), 405(b), and 407(a) by striking “para-  
16 graphs (9) through (15)” each place it appears and insert-  
17 ing “paragraphs (10) through (16)”.

18 **SEC. 405. PRESIDENTIAL WAIVER.**

19 Section 407(a) of the International Religious Free-  
20 dom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6447(a)), as amended by sec-  
21 tion 404(b), is further amended by inserting “for a period  
22 not to exceed 180 days” after “may waive”.

23 **SEC. 406. TERMINATION OF PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 409 of the International  
25 Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6449) is  
26 amended to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 409. TERMINATION OF PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS.**

2 “Any Presidential action taken under this Act with  
3 respect to a foreign country shall remain in effect unless  
4 expressly terminated by Presidential actions based upon  
5 the determination by the President and certification to  
6 Congress that the foreign government has ceased or taken  
7 substantial and verifiable steps to cease the particularly  
8 severe violations of religious freedom.”.

9 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by  
10 this section takes effect on the date of the enactment of  
11 this Act and applies with respect to any Presidential ac-  
12 tion taken under the International Religious Freedom Act  
13 of 1998 (as so amended) on or after such date of enact-  
14 ment.

15 **TITLE V—PROMOTION OF**  
16 **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

17 **SEC. 501. ASSISTANCE FOR PROMOTING RELIGIOUS FREE-**  
18 **DOM.**

19 Section 501 of the International Religious Freedom  
20 Act of 1998 is amended by adding at the end the following  
21 new subsection:

22 “(c) **ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND ASSISTANCE.**—

23 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2),  
24 assistance authorized to be provided under chapter  
25 4 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961

1 (22 U.S.C. 2346 et seq.; relating to the Economic  
2 Support Fund) should include assistance—

3 “(A) to entities and individuals in support  
4 of religious freedom, the rule of law, good gov-  
5 ernance, and the creation of a strong and vi-  
6 brant civil society; and

7 “(B) to provide enhanced security for  
8 human rights and religious freedom defenders.

9 “(2) LIMITATION.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Assistance authorized  
11 to be provided under the provisions of law spec-  
12 ified in subparagraph (B) may not be provided  
13 to a foreign government that is designated or  
14 re-designated as a country of particular concern  
15 for religious freedom under section 402 until  
16 the Secretary of State certifies to the appro-  
17 priate congressional committees that the gov-  
18 ernment of such country has agreed to use such  
19 funds to support improvements in respecting  
20 international standards of religious freedom for  
21 all its residents and to take measures to ad-  
22 dress discrimination and violence against reli-  
23 gious minorities or dissenting members of the  
24 majority community in such country.

1           “(B) PROVISIONS OF LAW.—The provi-  
2           sions of law specified in this subparagraph are  
3           the following:

4                   “(i) Chapter 4 of part II of the For-  
5                   eign Assistance Act of 1961.

6                   “(ii) Part II of the Foreign Assistance  
7                   Act of 1961.

8                   “(iii) The Arms Export Control Act.

9           “(3) WAIVER.—The President may waive for a  
10           period not to exceed 180 days the application of  
11           paragraph (2) if the President determines and re-  
12           ports to the appropriate congressional committees  
13           that—

14                   “(A) the exercise of such waiver authority  
15                   would further the purposes of this Act; or

16                   “(B) it is important to the national inter-  
17                   est of the United States to provide for the exer-  
18                   cise of such waiver authority.

19           “(d) PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT FREE-  
20           DOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF.—

21                   “(1) IN GENERAL.—The President, acting  
22                   through the Federal departments and other entities  
23                   described in paragraph (3)(B), is authorized to carry  
24                   out programs related to the promotion and protec-  
25                   tion of freedom of religion or belief in foreign coun-

1 tries. Such programs shall focus on supporting civil  
2 society, especially in countries designated or re-des-  
3 igned as countries of particular concern for reli-  
4 gious freedom under section 402, or recommended  
5 by the United States Commission on International  
6 Religious Freedom for such designation or re-des-  
7 ignation.

8 “(2) ELEMENTS.—Programs carried out under  
9 paragraph (1) shall include proposed reforms to a  
10 country’s education systems to promote respect for  
11 religious tolerance and freedom.

12 “(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
13 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Presi-  
14 dent \$17,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2016  
15 through 2019 to carry out this subsection, of  
16 which—

17 “(A) \$5,000,000 is authorized to be appro-  
18 priated to each of the Office on International  
19 Religious Freedom within the Department of  
20 State, the National Endowment for Democracy,  
21 and the United States Institute for Peace; and

22 “(B) \$2,000,000 is authorized to be appro-  
23 priated to the United States Commission on  
24 International Religious Freedom.



1       “(e) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
2 gress that the Secretary of State should prioritize the pro-  
3 tection of religious minorities and places where these mi-  
4 norities reside and congregate when developing policy and  
5 directing programs that are administered by the Depart-  
6 ment of Defense.”.

7 **SEC. 502. INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING.**

8       Section 502 of the International Religious Freedom  
9 Act of 1998 is amended—

10           (1) by striking “Section 303(a)” and inserting  
11       “(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 303(a)”; and

12           (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
13 section:

14       “(b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts authorized  
15 to be appropriated for democracy programs of the Bureau  
16 of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor of the Depart-  
17 ment of State, the United States Agency for International  
18 Development, and the Broadcasting Board of Governors  
19 are authorized to be used to support the development and  
20 implementation of innovative uses of the Internet and  
21 other electronic methods to support freedom of religion or  
22 belief abroad.”.

○