



U.S. CONGRESSMAN  
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Serving the 2<sup>nd</sup> District of Arkansas

**Expressing Concern Regarding Severe Restrictions on Religious Freedom Abroad**

Religious freedom is a foundational American value and a universal human right. Recognizing its importance, the United States codified its commitment to promoting religious liberty abroad through the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. That law made religious freedom a central focus of U.S. foreign policy.

This resolution draws attention to countries designated by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) as recommended for placement on the U.S. Department of State's Special Watch List (SWL). The SWL identifies foreign countries with "severe violations of religious freedom" that do not meet the stricter criteria for Countries of Particular Concern (CPC) but still require close monitoring.

The resolution focuses on the following foreign countries that USCIRF has recommended for the SWL: Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Turkey, Uzbekistan.

**The resolution calls on the House of Representatives to:**

- Affirm the United States' leadership in promoting religious freedom around the world.
- Urge the Department of State to engage robustly with allies and international partners on issues related to religious liberty.
- Affirm the importance of the following offices:
  - Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom
  - Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Antisemitism

Congress can help strengthen U.S. efforts to defend religious freedom globally and hold foreign countries accountable that violate religious freedom. Promoting religious freedom abroad is not only a moral imperative, but it also supports global stability, human rights, and upholds American values.

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