

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. _____**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION condemning religious persecution worldwide.

HOLDMAN

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



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1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION condemning religious
2 persecution worldwide.

3 *Whereas, The International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA)*
4 *of 1998 declared it to be United States (U.S.) policy to condemn*
5 *violations of religious freedom and to promote and assist other*
6 *governments in the promotion of the fundamental right to*
7 *freedom of religion;*

8 *Whereas, In the years following the IRFA, persecution of*
9 *members of various religions has continued to persist in*
10 *measurable amounts across all habitable continents;*

11 *Whereas, Christian converts face public execution in*
12 *Somalia, are being stoned for practicing their faith in Kenya,*
13 *and over 6,000 were drowned or massacred by the Boko Haram*
14 *and Fulani militias with little government intervention in*
15 *Nigeria;*

16 *Whereas, In Mexico, Nicaragua, and Colombia, Christian*
17 *church leaders have been assaulted, threatened, and in some*
18 *cases killed by transnational criminal organizations or*
19 *paramilitary armed groups attempting to intimidate and silence*
20 *them;*

21 *Whereas, In China, Buddhists and Hui Muslims face*
22 *tightened restrictions and expanding destruction of places of*
23 *worship, Christian priests are being murdered for preaching*
24 *the Gospel, church belongings are being confiscated and*
25 *burned, and members of various religions that are not*



1 registered with the government face risks of imprisonment or
2 torture;

3 *Whereas, In China's Xinjiang province, thousands of*
4 *Muslims have been detained for "re-education" or transferred*
5 *to forced labor facilities, with the Uighur population in*
6 *particular being subject to official harassment, arbitrary*
7 *detention, and draconian laws on religious dress;*

8 *Whereas, In India, ten of 28 states have laws restricting*
9 *religious conversions, hundreds of faith-based*
10 *nongovernmental organizations have lost licenses or foreign*
11 *funding, and 170 million Muslims live in an environment of*
12 *constant local violence without meaningful government*
13 *deterrence;*

14 *Whereas, North Korea's songbun system classifies citizens*
15 *based on their perceived loyalty to the state and places*
16 *religious practitioners within the "hostile" class, considering*
17 *them enemies of the state and deserving of discrimination,*
18 *punishment, isolation, and even execution for practicing their*
19 *faith or owning religious materials;*

20 *Whereas, In Burma, ethnoreligious minorities, including*
21 *the Muslim Rohingya and Christian Chin, have been subject to*
22 *institutionalized discrimination, mass killings, rapes,*
23 *government-run internment camps, and are denied basic rights*
24 *and dignity to the point that hundreds of thousands have been*
25 *forced to flee the country;*

26 *Whereas, In the Middle East, the Taliban continue to*
27 *persecute religious minorities in Afghanistan, millions of Sunni*
28 *Muslim Arabs, Yazidis, and Christians remain in internally*
29 *displaced person and refugee camps in Iraq, Christian*
30 *churches, villages, hospitals, and schools are being destroyed*
31 *by the Islamic government in Sudan, and widespread*
32 *Muslim-on-Muslim violence permeates throughout the region*
33 *along the Shia-Sunni divide;*

34 *Whereas, In Russia, the government continues to persecute*



1 *religious minorities, including Muslims, Protestants, members*
2 *of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, Falun Gong, indigenous*
3 *religions, and has issued record-breaking prison sentences to*
4 *Jehovah's Witnesses for alleged extremism;*

5 *Whereas, Religious intolerance remains a serious concern*
6 *across Europe, where Muslims and Jews have faced rising*
7 *levels of xenophobia and discrimination in eleven countries,*
8 *including France, England, Poland, Austria, and Germany;*

9 *Whereas, Countless members of religious groups have a*
10 *history of being oppressed and persecuted by Communist*
11 *regimes and are held as prisoners for merely believing in and*
12 *worshipping according to their faith;*

13 *Whereas, The 2023 U.S. Commission on International*
14 *Religious Freedom Annual Report requested seventeen*
15 *countries be designated as Countries of Particular Concern*
16 *(CPC): Afghanistan, Burma, China, Cuba, Eritrea, India, Iran,*
17 *Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Saudi*
18 *Arabia, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Vietnam, and*
19 *suggested another eleven countries be placed on the State*
20 *Department's Special Watch List (SWL);*

21 *Whereas, On December 29, 2023, in accordance with*
22 *IRFA, the U.S. Secretary of State designated twelve CPCs,*
23 *including Burma, People's Republic of China, Cuba, Eritrea,*
24 *Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Nicaragua,*
25 *Pakistan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan,*
26 *and placed Algeria, Azerbaijan, the Central African Republic,*
27 *Comoros, and Vietnam on the SWL;*

28
29 *Whereas, Although only seventeen countries were placed on*
30 *the CPC or SWL in 2023, religious discrimination and*
31 *persecution is a global human rights problem that continues to*
32 *rise; and*

33 *Whereas, The right to religious freedom is a universal right*
34 *recognized by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:*
35 *Therefore,*



1 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly*
2 *of the State of Indiana, the House of Representatives*
3 *concurring:*

4 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly condemns
5 religious persecution and all violations of religious freedom
6 worldwide.

7 SECTION 2. That the Indiana General Assembly affirms
8 that religious freedom is a fundamental right of every individual
9 that should never be arbitrarily abridged by any government.

10 SECTION 3. That the Indiana General Assembly urges the
11 President of the United States and Congress to urge
12 discriminatory countries to cease their religious persecution and
13 combat religious persecution carried out by extremist non-state
14 actors.

15 SECTION 4. That the Indiana General Assembly urges the
16 President of the United States and Congress to urge the heads
17 of state around the world to uphold the right to religious
18 freedom and condemn the global persecution of any religious
19 group.

20 SECTION 5. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed
21 to transmit copies of this Resolution to Tim Overton and each
22 member of the Indiana congressional delegation.

