



March 20, 2024

The Honorable Ben Cardin
Chairman
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jim Risch
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
483 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

cc:

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

cc:

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cardin and Ranking Member Risch,

We write as an informal group of **161** organizations and individuals who are scholars, religious and secular leaders, human rights advocates, and practitioners to express our gratitude for your continued support of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF). Established by the [International Religious Freedom Act of 1998](#) (IRFA), USCIRF plays a vital role in promoting religious freedom globally and advocating for those facing persecution or discrimination based on their beliefs.

*We, the undersigned, urge you to advance S. 3764 – **The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Act of 2024** to get this legislation passed and signed into law, to ensure that the USCIRF can effectively continue fulfilling its crucial mandate.*

From our various experiences, we've seen the Commission play a vital role as a pillar of U.S. foreign policy infrastructure by reporting on those around the world who suffer for their beliefs, conscience, or religion. Robust reporting products, advocating for prisoners of conscience, and resources such as a database of prisoners of conscience and victims of persecution are essential tools used by civil society advocates to advance this fundamental human right.

Reauthorizing the USCIRF is not only a matter of principle but also a meaningful step towards fulfilling our nation's promise to uphold this fundamental human right.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

ORGANIZATIONS:

1. *21 Wilberforce*
2. *ADO Alevi Philosophy Center Association*
3. *ADIP (Anatolian Religions and Beliefs Platform)*
4. *Advocacy for Faith and Justice in Vietnam (AFJV)*
5. *Advocates for Faith and Justice in Vietnam*
6. *Alianza de Iglesias Cubanas No Registradas (Aicnor)*
7. *Alliance for Democratic Justice*
8. *American Humanist Association*
9. *American Muslim & Multifaith Women's Empowerment Council (AMMWECC)*
10. *Armenian National Committee of America Western Region*
11. *Asian Children's Education Fellowship*
12. *Baha'is of the United States*
13. *Bitter Winter (A magazine on religious liberty and human rights)*
14. *Boat People SOS (BPSOS)*
15. *Bruderhof*
16. *Buddhist Solidarity Association*
17. *Campaign for Uyghurs*
18. *CaoDai Today*
19. *Center for Pluralism*
20. *China Aid*
21. *China Aid Association*
22. *Christian Freedom International*
23. *Church of Scientology National Affairs Office*
24. *Churches for Middle East Peace*
25. *Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience*
26. *Coptic Solidarity*
27. *Council of Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU)*
28. *Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting*
29. *Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention*
30. *European Interreligious Forum for Religious Freedom (EIFRF)*
31. *Ex-Muslims of North America (EXMNA)*
32. *Faith Harvest Church Chosen Generation Radio*
33. *Federation of Indian American Christian Organizations of North America (FIACONA)*
34. *Foundation for Religious Freedom (FrF) Nigeria*
35. *Foundation for the Improvement of Life, Culture and Society (Fundacion para la Mejora de la Vida, la Cultura y la Sociedad)*
36. *Friends of Thien Am Zen Monastery*
37. *Genocide Watch*
38. *Gerard Noodt Foundation for Freedom of Religion or Belief*
39. *Global Peace Foundation*
40. *Great Truth*
41. *Happy Science USA Bureau*
42. *Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)*
43. *In Defense of Christians*
44. *Indian American Muslim Council*

45. *International Christian Concern*
46. *International Committee on Nigeria*
47. *International Human Rights Committee*
48. *International Society for Peace & Justice*
49. *IRF Secretariat*
50. *Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) Office of Interfaith and Community Alliances (IOICA)*
51. *Jubilee Campaign*
52. *Justice For All*
53. *Lantos Foundation for Human Rights & Justice*
54. *Law and Liberty Trust*
55. *Leah Foundation*
56. *Living Water Productions*
57. *Love Your Neighbor Community (LYNC)*
58. *Muslim Women Speakers*
59. *New York State Council of Churches*
60. *Orthodox Public Affairs Committee (OPAC)*
61. *Parity*
62. *Patmos Institute*
63. *Prayer Pioneers*
64. *Red Eagle Enterprises*
65. *Religious Freedom & Business Foundation*
66. *Rumi Forum*
67. *Set My People Free*
68. *Shai Fund*
69. *Sikh Dharma International*
70. *Sunshine Ministries*
71. *Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam*
72. *Union of Reform Judaism*
73. *United Macedonian Diaspora*
74. *US Institute of Diplomacy and Human Rights*
75. *Uyghur Academy*
76. *Uyghur Human Rights Project*
77. *Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation*
78. *Vietnam Coalition Against Torture (VN-CAT)*
79. *Widows and Orphans*

INDIVIDUALS:

80. *Rev. Alejandro Hernández Cepero, Coordinator, IRF Roundtable Cuba*
81. *Amjad Mahmood Khan, National Secretary for Public Affairs, Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA*
82. *Angana Chatterji, Scholar, University of California, Berkeley*
83. *Rev. Anna Sineva, Director of Government Relations & Public Policy, Church of Scientology National Affairs Office*
84. *Annie McKinney, Public Relations Coordinator, JDA Worldwide*
85. *Anthony N. Vance, Director of Public Affairs, Baha'is of the United States*

86. *Arshan Khalid, Head, ISNA IOICA (Islamic Society of North America Office of Interfaith and Community Alliances)*
87. *Bob Fu, PhD, President, China Aid*
88. *Dr. Brian Grim, President, Religious Freedom & Business Foundation*
89. *Bryan Nerren, President, Asian Children's Education Fellowship*
90. *Charmaine Hedding, President, Shai Fund*
91. *David Babu, Founder and President, Sunshine Ministries*
92. *Dr. Chris Seiple, President Emeritus, Institute for Global Engagement; Co-Founder, International Religious Freedom Roundtable*
93. *Dogan Bermek, President, ADO Alevi Philosophy Center Association*
94. *Elaina Fowler, Ex-Muslims of North America (EXMNA)*
95. *Eric Roux, President, European Interreligious Forum for Religious Freedom (EIFRF)*
96. *George Gigicos, Co-Founder & Chairman, Orthodox Public Affairs Committee (OPAC)*
97. *Dr. Gloria Samdi Puldu, President, Leah Foundation*
98. *Greg Mitchell, Founder & CEO, IRF Secretariat*
99. *Gregory H. Stanton, Founding President, Genocide Watch*
100. *Gregory Young, Pastor Host, Faith Harvest Church Chosen Generation Radio*
101. *Ibrahim Anli, Executive Director, Rumi Forum*
102. *Jackie Abramian, Founder, Global Cadence*
103. *Colonel James E. Schaefer, Pastor, Grace Church Waldorf*
104. *Jessica Eturralde, Journalist, Director of Communications, Love Your Neighbor Community (LYNC)*
105. *Johann Huleatt, Outreach Director, Bruderhof*
106. *Julie Millsap, Government Relations Manager, Uyghur Human Rights Project*
107. *Hamid Gharagozloo, Chair, IRF Roundtable Iran Working Group*
108. *Hena Zuberi, Director of Advocacy, Justice For All*
109. *Hulda Fahmi, International Director, Set My People Free*
110. *Iván Arjona-Pelado, President, Foundation for the Improvement of Life, Culture and Society (Fundacion para la Mejora de la Vida, la Cultura y la Sociedad)*
111. *Kashif Mirza, AMMWEC; Coordinator, IRF Roundtable Pakistan*
112. *Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett, President, Lantos Foundation for Human Rights & Justice*
113. *Kaylee Fisher, Global Operations Director, IRF Secretariat*
114. *Keegan Burke, Interfaith Director, Alliance of Religions*
115. *Kola Alapinni, General Counsel and Director of Operations, Foundation for Religious Freedom (FrF) Nigeria*
116. *Kristina Olney*
117. *Kyle Abts, Executive Director, International Committee on Nigeria*
118. *Dr. Kyle Wisdom, Deputy Director, International Institute for Religious Freedom*
119. *Lauren Homer, President, Law and Liberty Trust*
120. *Lily Pelletier, Capitol Liaison, International Christian Concern*
121. *Lindsay Rodriguez, Director of Development & Advocacy, Coptic Solidarity*
122. *Loan Nguyễn, Advocates for Faith and Justice in Vietnam*
123. *Loan Vo, Coordinator, Buddhist Solidarity Association*
124. *Lou Ann Sabatier, Publisher, International Religious Freedom Scorecard, Sabatier Consulting*
125. *Rev. Dr. Marian Edmonds-Allen, Executive Director, Parity*
126. *Rev. Mario Félix Leonart Barroso, General Coordinator, Patmos Institute*

127. *Martha Hudson, International Religious Freedom Advocate, Save the Persecuted Christians*
128. *Massimo Introvigne, Editor-in-chief, Bitter Winter*
129. *Michelle Nguyen, Advocacy Coordinator, Vietnam Coalition Against Torture (VN-CAT)*
130. *Mike Ghose, President, Center for Pluralism*
131. *Mildrey Betancourt Rodríguez, Alianza de Iglesias Cubanas No Registradas (Aicnor)*
132. *Minh Lê, Rt French Didactician, Advocacy for Faith and Justice in Vietnam (AFJV)*
133. *Nadine Maenza, President, IRF Secretariat*
134. *Nasim Ahmed Malik, General Secretary, International Human Rights Committee*
135. *Rev. Neal Christie, Executive Director, Federation of Indian American Christian Organizations of North America (FIACONA)*
136. *Nguyen Dinh Thang, PhD, Recipient of the 2011 Asia Democracy & Human Rights Award; CEO & President, Boat People SOS*
137. *Patrice J. Pederson, President, First Freedom Foundation*
138. *Paul Marshall, Professor, Baylor University*
139. *Dr. Paul Murray, International Vice President, Global Peace Foundation*
140. *Puneet Ahluwalia, Alliance for Democratic Justice*
141. *Dr. Quoc-Hung Tran, MD, Director of Communications, Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam*
142. *Raudel Garcia Bringas, Patmos Institute*
143. *Rehan Khan, President, International Society for Peace & Justice*
144. *Dr. Rishat Abbas, President, Uyghur Academy*
145. *Robert A. Destro, Professor of Law, The Catholic University of America*
146. *Hon. Rollin A. Van Broekhoven, Board Vice Chairman, Institute for Global Engagement; Senior Associate, Oxford House Research Consultancy (Oxford, UK)*
147. *Rushan Abbas, Executive Director, Campaign for Uyghurs*
148. *Sarkis Balkhian, Executive Director, Armenian National Committee of America Western Region*
149. *Satoshi Nishihata, Bureau Chief, Happy Science USA Bureau*
150. *Scott Morgan, President, Red Eagle Enterprises; Co-chair, IRF Roundtable Africa Working Group*
151. *Rev. Dr. Scott Stearman, U.N. Representative, Baptist World Alliance / Cooperative Baptist Fellowship*
152. *Simran Stuelpnagel, Global Affairs Advisor, Sikh Dharma International*
153. *Soraya M. Deen, Founder, Muslim Women Speakers*
154. *Stephen Enada, President, International Committee on Nigeria*
155. *Rev. Susan Taylor, National Public Affairs Director, Church of Scientology National Affairs Office*
156. *Tanya Nguyen-Do, Founder, Friends of Thien Am Zen Monastery*
157. *Thierry Valle, President, Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience*
158. *Tuan Nguyen, Community Engagement Coordinator, Boat People SOS*
159. *Chaplain Dr. Victoria Nguyen, CaoDai Today*
160. *Dr. William T. Devlin, Volunteer CEO, Widows and Orphans*
161. *Yahya Luqman, Imam, American Fazl Mosque (Washington DC), Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA*