

**PETITION TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS CALLING FOR THE REAUTHORIZATION OF
THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM**

February 28, 2019

Members of the United States Congress
Washington, D.C.

Dear Members of Congress,

It is with great hope that we petition the United States Congress to reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom. The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2014 amended the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to reauthorize the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) as an independent federal government advisory body through FY2019. We ask the United States Congress to pass similar legislation as soon as possible to continue funding the commission for the coming years.

In a world where religious freedom continues to decline, USCIRF continues to produce excellent work by researching and monitoring international religious freedom issues on a global scale. They advocate on behalf of victims of religious persecution, intolerance, and discrimination around the world. USCIRF is authorized to travel on fact-finding missions to other countries and hold public hearings regarding related matters in order to advance the fundamental human right of religious freedom. Furthermore, USCIRF issues an annual report that includes policy recommendations to the U.S. government based on the report's evaluation of the facts and circumstances of religious freedom violations worldwide. This report is an invaluable tool for the United States government and civil society in advancing the cause of human rights and religious freedom.

We urge the 116th Congress of the United States to pass legislation that will reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom in order for them to continue their most important mission.

Sincerely,

International Christian Concern

CC:
Secretary of State Mike Pompeo
Senator James Risch, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Senator Robert Menendez, Ranking Democratic Member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Congressman Eliot Engel, Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Congressman Michael McCaul, Ranking Republican Member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs