



Introduced Version

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**HOUSE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION condemning religious persecution worldwide.

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**Prescott**

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\_\_\_\_\_, read first time and referred to Committee on

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2022

HC 1027/DI 140



**HOUSE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

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1           A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION condemning religious  
2 persecution worldwide.

3           *Whereas, The International Religious Freedom Act of 1998*  
4 *(22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.) found that religious persecution is not*  
5 *confined to a particular region or regime and reaffirmed the*  
6 *commitment of the United States that religious freedom is the*  
7 *right of every individual and should never be arbitrarily*  
8 *abridged by any government;*

9           *Whereas, The persecution of Christians, Muslims, and*  
10 *members of other religions is a global problem, occurring in*  
11 *countries across Europe, Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and the*  
12 *Americas;*

13           *Whereas, According to 2018 reports from international*  
14 *non-governmental organizations, 215 million Christians*  
15 *experience high levels of persecution—amounting to 1 in 12*  
16 *Christians worldwide, and that in the most recent 12-month*  
17 *reporting period 3,066 Christians were killed, 1,252 were*  
18 *abducted, 1,020 were raped or sexually harassed, and 793*  
19 *churches were attacked;*

20           *Whereas, Christians and members of other religions face*  
21 *persecution not only from Islamic extremist groups, like the*  
22 *Islamic State and Boko Haram, but also from other religious*  
23 *extremist groups, atheistic regimes, and from officials at all*  
24 *levels of government in numerous countries worldwide;*

25           *Whereas, Such persecution ranges from social harassment*  
26 *and discrimination to physical violence, imprisonment, torture,*



1        *enslavement, rape, death, and genocide;*

2            *Whereas, The Middle East has been a home to Christians*  
3        *since the first century A.D., but the Christian population in the*  
4        *Middle East has significantly decreased over the past few*  
5        *decades as a result of persecution, displacement, and genocide;*

6            *Whereas, Christians and members of other religions in Syria,*  
7        *Iraq, and elsewhere have faced assault, torture, imprisonment,*  
8        *enslavement, and execution in a genocidal campaign by the*  
9        *Islamic State and other religious extremists;*

10           *Whereas, Turkey and Azerbaijan are in armed conflict*  
11        *against Armenia and killing thousands of Armenian Christians*  
12        *in the Azerbaijan province of Karabakh, continuing a*  
13        *century-long genocide against Christian Armenians;*

14           *Whereas, According to 2017 reports from international*  
15        *non-governmental organizations, the Christian population in*  
16        *Iraq decreased from 1,400,000 people in 2003 to just 275,000*  
17        *people in 2016, as a result of displacement and genocide*  
18        *caused by religious extremism. Christian and other religious*  
19        *holy sites in Syria, Iraq, and elsewhere have been destroyed by*  
20        *the Islamic State and other religious extremists;*

21           *Whereas, In 2016, approximately 200 Christians in Iran were*  
22        *arrested, while others have been beaten, tortured, subjected to*  
23        *feigned public executions, and even sentenced to death for their*  
24        *faith, and at least 90 remain in illegal detention;*

25           *Whereas, In Saudi Arabia, Christians as well as other*  
26        *religious minorities face imprisonment, torture, and*  
27        *deportation and must practice their faith in secrecy because*  
28        *their houses of worship are not allowed;*

29           *Whereas, On April 9, 2017, Palm Sunday, 44 people were*  
30        *killed in bomb attacks by the Islamic State on Coptic churches*  
31        *in Egypt;*

32           *Whereas, The Islamic State has also claimed responsibility*  
33        *for the attack on a bus on May 26, 2017, in which 29 Coptic*  
34        *Christians were killed while traveling to a monastery in Minya,*  
35        *Egypt;*



1       *Whereas, Since the fall of the Gaddafi regime, Libya has*  
2       *served as a haven for militant Islamist extremist groups, like the*  
3       *Islamic State, which has resulted in more violent forms of*  
4       *Christian persecution;*

5       *Whereas, The Islamic State claimed responsibility for the*  
6       *killing of 51 Coptic Christians in Libya in February and March*  
7       *of 2015;*

8       *Whereas, Christian migrants from northern Africa traveling*  
9       *through Libya on their way to Europe have been abducted,*  
10       *trafficked, and forced to convert to Islam at the hands of the*  
11       *Islamic State;*

12       *Whereas, In Afghanistan there are reports that converts to*  
13       *Christianity have been murdered or sent to mental hospitals;*

14       *Whereas, Christians in Pakistan face accusations of*  
15       *blasphemy, punishable by death, and convictions and sentences*  
16       *for blasphemy are given despite little or no evidence. According*  
17       *to Open Doors USA, approximately 600 Christian churches*  
18       *were attacked in Pakistan in 2016;*

19       *Whereas, In Pakistan, the government and police turn a blind*  
20       *eye as female Christians are being beaten, attacked, kidnapped,*  
21       *and murdered for refusing to give up their faith and being*  
22       *forced to marry Muslim men;*

23       *Whereas, Religious nationalism in India has resulted in*  
24       *increased persecution of Muslims and Christians;*

25       *Whereas, Christians in Nigeria have been massacred by*  
26       *Islamic extremist groups like Boko Haram and Fulani militias*  
27       *while government security forces either cannot or will not*  
28       *protect their citizens, and Christian leaders are calling the*  
29       *violence, which has caused at least 6,000 Christian deaths in*  
30       *2018, "pure genocide";*

31       *Whereas, In September 2018 more than 20 Nigerian*  
32       *Christians, including Reverend Gerison Ezekiel Killa, were*  
33       *drowned in the Benue River trying to escape persecution from*  
34       *Fulani militia attacks;*

35       *Whereas, Rwanda has closed more than 8,000 churches in*



1 *2018 and passed laws heavily regulating churches and*  
2 *believers;*

3 *Whereas, Christian converts in Somalia often face public*  
4 *execution;*

5 *Whereas, In 2017, a mob of 100 men attacked a Christian*  
6 *church in Uganda, beating and raping members of the*  
7 *congregation;*

8 *Whereas, In September 2018 in the Democratic Republic of*  
9 *Congo, Islamic jihadists stormed the town of Beni and*  
10 *murdered more than 27 at a church;*

11 *Whereas, In Kenya, Christians are being stoned as a way of*  
12 *persecution for practicing their faith;*

13 *Whereas, In Sudan, the Islamist government is trying to*  
14 *eradicate Christians by destroying their churches, villages,*  
15 *hospitals, and schools;*

16 *Whereas, In May 2017, a Christian governor in Indonesia*  
17 *was found guilty of blasphemy and sentenced to two years in*  
18 *prison in what was widely seen as a challenge to religious*  
19 *pluralism in Indonesia;*

20 *Whereas, Communist regimes have a strong history of*  
21 *oppressing and persecuting Christians as well as members of*  
22 *other religions;*

23 *Whereas, Hundreds of thousands of Muslim believers in*  
24 *Xinjiang have been detained en masse for "re-education" or*  
25 *transferred to forced labor facilities;*

26 *Whereas, Religious groups in China that previously*  
27 *experienced relatively low levels of religious persecution, such*  
28 *as Chinese Buddhists or Hui Muslims, have faced tightening*  
29 *restrictions and expanding destruction of places of worship;*

30 *Whereas, In China, members of Christian churches, as well*  
31 *as members of other religions, that are not registered with the*  
32 *government face increased persecution from the Chinese state,*  
33 *including the risk of imprisonment and torture;*



1       *Whereas, In China, Communist officials are confiscating*  
2 *church belongings and burning them along with murdering*  
3 *priests who continue to preach the Gospel;*

4       *Whereas, In North Korea, the practice of Christianity is*  
5 *prohibited and, if caught, Christians are sent to forced labor*  
6 *camps;*

7       *Whereas, In November 2016, Vietnam adopted a new "Law*  
8 *on Belief and Religion" that falls dramatically short of*  
9 *internationally accepted standards for human rights and*  
10 *curtails the right to religious freedom for over 8 million*  
11 *Christians in that country;*

12       *Whereas, In Mexico, Nicaragua, and Colombia, Christian*  
13 *church leaders have been assaulted, threatened, and in some*  
14 *cases killed by transnational criminal organizations and*  
15 *paramilitary armed groups attempting to intimidate and silence*  
16 *them;*

17       *Whereas, Mexico is reportedly the most dangerous place in*  
18 *the world to be a priest, with at least six priests killed in 2018*  
19 *and 22 priests killed in the past three years due to increased*  
20 *secularism, organized crime, and lawlessness;*

21       *Whereas, Thousands of Christians and members of other*  
22 *religions are held as prisoners around the world merely for*  
23 *believing in and worshipping according to their faith;*

24       *Whereas, In Turkey, U.S. Pastor Andrew Brunson was*  
25 *imprisoned for over two years for "Christianization" as a*  
26 *terrorism and espionage charge;*

27       *Whereas, In Pakistan, Asia Bibi has, for almost a decade,*  
28 *been separated from her family, imprisoned, and sentenced to*  
29 *death for blasphemy after arguing with a Muslim co-worker*  
30 *about sharing water with a Christian;*

31       *Whereas, Pastor John Cao, a Chinese pastor and legal*  
32 *permanent resident of the U.S., was arrested in China in March*  
33 *2017 and is facing seven years of imprisonment for his*  
34 *prominent work in the Chinese "house church" movement;*

35       *Whereas, In Sri Lanka, India, the Central African Republic,*



1 *and elsewhere, Muslims are subject to severe religious*  
2 *persecution;*

3 *Whereas, India's 170 million Muslims live in an environment*  
4 *of constant local violence without meaningful government*  
5 *deterrence;*

6 *Whereas, In China's Xinjiang province, the Uighur*  
7 *population is subject to official harassment, arbitrary*  
8 *detention, and draconian laws on religious dress;*

9 *Whereas, There is widespread Muslim-on-Muslim violence in*  
10 *the Middle East, most commonly along the Shia-Sunni divide;*

11 *Whereas, There are reports of Muslim genocide in Myanmar;*

12 *Whereas, Religious discrimination is a global human rights*  
13 *problem; and*

14 *Whereas, The right to religious freedom is a universal right*  
15 *recognized by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:*  
16 *Therefore,*

17 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives*  
18 *of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,*  
19 *the Senate concurring:*

20 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly condemns  
21 all violations of religious freedom and affirms that religious  
22 freedom is a fundamental right of every individual that should  
23 never be arbitrarily abridged by any government.

24 SECTION 2. That the Indiana General Assembly condemns  
25 religious persecution around the world.

26 SECTION 3. That the Indiana General Assembly urges and  
27 calls on the President of the United States and Congress to urge  
28 discriminatory countries to cease their religious persecution and  
29 combat religious persecution carried out by extremist non-state  
30 actors.

31 SECTION 4. That the Indiana General Assembly urges and  
32 calls on the President of the United States and Congress to urge  
33 the heads of the governments of all countries around the world  
34 to uphold the right to religious freedom and condemn the global  
35 persecution of any religious group.

