

RELEASE IN PART B5

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2011 7:34 PM
To: H
Subject: FW: : IRF

FYI traffic

-----Original Message-----

From: Mills, Cheryl D
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2011 7:33 PM
To: Posner, Michael H
Subject: FW: : IRF

Mike:



B5

cdm

-----Original Message-----

From: Adams, David S
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2011 4:13 PM
To: Mills, Cheryl D; Kennedy, Patrick F
Cc: Rodriguez, Miguel E; Posner, Michael H; Sullivan, Jacob J
Subject: RE: : IRF

Afternoon all -- Regarding whether this bill is actually moving, Rep. Berman's staff believe that Rep. Smith is likely to try and offer it as an amendment to the State Department authorization bill that HFAC is scheduled to mark-up next week.



Dave

This email is UNCLASSIFIED-----Original Message-----

From: Mills, Cheryl D
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2011 8:12 AM
To: Kennedy, Patrick F
Cc: Rodriguez, Miguel E; Adams, Thomas C; Posner, Michael H; Sullivan, Jacob J; Adams, David S
Subject: Re: : IRF

+ dave (sorry tom)

----- Original Message -----

From: Kennedy, Patrick F
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2011 08:05 AM
To: Mills, Cheryl D
Cc: Rodriguez, Miguel E; Adams, Thomas C; Posner, Michael H; Sullivan, Jacob J
Subject: RE: : IRF

Cheryl

FYI

The enabling legislation [22 usc 6411] establishes an Amb at Large for Rel. Freedom within the Department

The Department has administratively placed the office within DRL, there is nothing in the current statute that requires or bars such

Regards
pat

-----Original Message-----

From: Mills, Cheryl D
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2011 7:53 AM
To: Posner, Michael H; Sullivan, Jacob J
Cc: Rodriguez, Miguel E; Adams, Thomas C; Kennedy, Patrick F
Subject: Re: : IRF

+ others for reality check on bill moving

----- Original Message -----

From: Posner, Michael H
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2011 07:36 AM
To: Sullivan, Jacob J; Mills, Cheryl D
Subject: : IRF

Frank Wolf has introduced a bill in Congress that would ,among other things, move the office of International Religious Freedom from DRL to S staff. It is apparently gaining momentum (see below).

B5

Gimme That OC Religion

Locals Push Bill Spreading Religious Freedom By Matt Coker Wed., Jul. 6 2011 at 8:28 AM Comments (2)

A Santa Ana-based group pushing for religious freedom worldwide has launched a new advocacy campaign aimed at beefing up the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 and, with it, U.S. foreign policy.

Turmoil in Nigeria, the Middle East, Northern Africa and Pakistan--including the burning of churches and killing of Christians--proves U.S. House Resolution 1856 is critically needed, according to Open Doors USA.

The bill would reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) and allow the IRF office to more effectively endorse religious freedom through advocacy, reporting and programming. The legislation would also add governments threatening religious freedom to the State Department list of "Countries of Particular Concern." All foreign service officers would receive religious freedom training.

Under current law, Suzan Johnson Cook, ambassador-at-large for International Religious Freedom, works under the Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Michael Posner. With HR 1856, Cook would report directly to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

"If this bill passes, it will offer a significant advancement in religious freedom worldwide," says Carl Moeller, Open Doors USA's president and CEO, in a statement from the group. "It is important to urge our U.S. representatives to vote for this bill."

Lindsay Vessey, Moeller's advocacy director, calls HR 1856 "one of the most important bills for the promotion of international religious freedom to be introduced. It is critical that HR 1856 be passed before the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom's funding expires in September. It is imperative that constituents let their elected officials know that religious freedom is important to them and that they campaign for religious freedom for all people of faith around the world."

Vessey points out that nearly 70 percent of the world's 6.8 billion people live in countries with high restrictions on religion. Stable, democratic governments in these countries are unlikely to ever succeed without religious freedom, Open Doors USA argues.

For more information about the campaign, [go here](#).

SBU

This email is UNCLASSIFIED