

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 440

To provide for the establishment of the Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 25, 2011

Mr. WOLF (for himself, Mr. PITTS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. HOLT, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of the Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SPECIAL ENVOY TO PROMOTE RELIGIOUS**
4 **FREEDOM OF RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN THE**
5 **NEAR EAST AND SOUTH CENTRAL ASIA.**

6 (a) APPOINTMENT.—The President shall appoint a
7 Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious
8 Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia (in

1 this Act referred to as the “Special Envoy”) within the
2 Department of State.

3 (b) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—The Special Envoy should be
4 a person of recognized distinction in the field of human
5 rights and religious freedom who shall have the rank of
6 ambassador and shall hold the office at the pleasure of
7 the President.

8 **SEC. 2. DUTIES.**

9 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Special Envoy shall carry out
10 the following duties:

11 (1) Promote the right of religious freedom of
12 religious minorities in the countries of the Near
13 East and the countries of South Central Asia, de-
14 nounce the violation of such right, and recommend
15 appropriate responses by the United States Govern-
16 ment when such right is violated.

17 (2) Monitor and combat acts of religious intoler-
18 erance and incitement targeted against religious mi-
19 norities in the countries of the Near East and the
20 countries of South Central Asia.

21 (3) Work to ensure that the unique needs of re-
22 ligious minority communities in the countries of the
23 Near East and the countries of South Central Asia
24 are addressed, including the economic and security
25 needs of such communities.

1 (4) Work with foreign governments of the coun-
2 tries of the Near East and the countries of South
3 Central Asia to address laws that are inherently dis-
4 criminatory toward religious minority communities
5 in such countries.

6 (5) Coordinate and assist in the preparation of
7 that portion of the report required by sections
8 116(d) and 502B(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act
9 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151n(d) and 2304(b)) relating
10 to the nature and extent of religious freedom of reli-
11 gious minorities in the countries of the Near East
12 and the countries of South Central Asia.

13 (6) Coordinate and assist in the preparation of
14 that portion of the report required by section 102(b)
15 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998
16 (22 U.S.C. 6412(b)) relating to the nature and ex-
17 tent of religious freedom of religious minorities in
18 the countries of the Near East and the countries of
19 South Central Asia.

20 (b) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the duties
21 under subsection (a), the Special Envoy shall, to the max-
22 imum extent practicable, coordinate with the Bureau of
23 Population, Refugees and Migration of the Department of
24 State, the Ambassador at Large for International Reli-
25 gious Freedom, the United States Commission on Inter-

1 national Religious Freedom, and other relevant Federal
2 agencies and officials.

3 **SEC. 3. DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION.**

4 Subject to the direction of the President and the Sec-
5 retary of State, the Special Envoy is authorized to rep-
6 resent the United States in matters and cases relevant to
7 religious freedom in the countries of the Near East and
8 the countries of South Central Asia in—

9 (1) contacts with foreign governments, intergov-
10 ernmental organizations, and specialized agencies of
11 the United Nations, the Organization of Security
12 and Cooperation in Europe, and other international
13 organizations of which the United States is a mem-
14 ber; and

15 (2) multilateral conferences and meetings rel-
16 evant to religious freedom in the countries of the
17 Near East and the countries of South Central Asia.

18 **SEC. 4. CONSULTATIONS.**

19 The Special Envoy shall consult with domestic and
20 international nongovernmental organizations and multilat-
21 eral organizations and institutions, as the Special Envoy
22 considers appropriate to fulfill the purposes of this Act.

23 **SEC. 5. FUNDING.**

24 Of the amounts made available for “Diplomatic and
25 Consular Programs” for fiscal years 2011 through 2015,

1 the Secretary of State shall provide to the Special Envoy
2 \$1,000,000 for each such fiscal year for the hiring of staff,
3 for the conduct of investigations, and for necessary travel
4 to carry out the provisions of this Act.

5 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

6 In this Act—

7 (1) the term “Near East” or “countries of the
8 Near East”—

9 (A) means Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran,
10 Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya,
11 Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria,
12 Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen;
13 and

14 (B) includes the West Bank and Gaza
15 Strip; and

16 (2) the term “South Central Asia” or “coun-
17 tries of South Central Asia” means Afghanistan,
18 Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Kyrgyzstan,
19 Kazakhstan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka,
20 Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

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