



December 19th, 2024

The Honorable Marco Rubio
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Senator Rubio,

We, an informal coalition of religious and secular leaders, advocates, and scholars, extend our warmest congratulations on your recent nomination to the U.S. State Department. While we are sad to lose such a steadfast and unwavering champion for International Religious Freedom (IRF) on Capitol Hill, we believe that, if confirmed, you will continue to be a strong advocate for the advancement of religious freedom around the globe. We are confident that your deep commitment to IRF will continue to make a profound and positive impact, just as it has throughout your many years of Senate leadership.

For years, you have been a trusted and tireless advocate, championing the rights of individuals of all faiths to worship freely and without fear of persecution. Your efforts have been instrumental in making religious freedom a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy, and your leadership has been a source of hope and inspiration for countless religious minorities worldwide. We are immensely grateful for the strong, principled voice you have given to these communities and for the concrete steps you have taken to advance this fundamental human right.

If confirmed, we ask that you continue to advocate without fear for the rights of those facing serious violations of religious freedom worldwide. We ask that the foreign policy of the next Administration increase its support of persecuted religious minorities in public actions and diplomacy, make strong use of the toolset provided by the IRF Act of 1998 and other legislation, as well as engage productively with the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom and Congress, increase its support for religious prisoners of conscience and religious minority communities facing mass atrocities, protect sacred sites and show great support for peace-building efforts, and hold violators accountable.

We look forward to engaging with you, your team, and the State Department on this important work in the coming years. We are hopeful that the future will open new pathways for collaboration, enabling us to pursue our shared mission of protecting the rights of all people to live and worship according to their beliefs.

We thank you again for your steadfast commitment and your leadership.

Sincerely,

ORGANIZATIONS

ADF International

Advocates for Faith and Justice in Vietnam (AFJV)

Alliance of Religions

American Defenders for Persecuted Human

American Muslim & Multifaith Women's Empowerment Council (AMMWEC)

Asian Children Education Fellowship

Baha'is of the United States, Office of Public Affairs

Boat People SOS (BPSOS)

Bruderhof

Buddhist Solidarity Association

CaoDai Today

Chin Association of Maryland

Christian Freedom International

Church of Scientology National Affairs Office

Committee for Religious Freedom in Vietnam

Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience

Coptic Solidarity

Ex-Muslims of North America

Falun Dafa Association of Washington DC

Federation of Indian American Christian Organizations of North America (FIACONA)

Friends of Falun Gong

Global Peace Foundation

Great Truth

In Defense of Christians

India Working Group, IRF Roundtable

Indian American Muslim Council

Indigenous Ministries International

International Campaign for the Rohingya

International Christian Concern

International Christian Rescue Mission

International Committee on Nigeria

International Defenders Council

International Religious Freedom (IRF) Secretariat

Jubilee Campaign USA

Latino Faith Based Engagement

Law and Liberty Trust

Lions Gate Communications, LLC – TX

Montagnards Stand for Justice (MSFJ), USA

New Wineskins Missionary Network

No Business With Genocide

Parity

Prayer Pioneers

Red Eagle Enterprises

Students for Falun Gong

Sunshine Ministries

Thien Am Monastery at The Edge of The Universe

Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam

Union of Councils for Jews in the Former Soviet Union

United Macedonian Diaspora

Uyghur Human Rights Project (UHRP)

Vietnam Coalition Against Torture (VN-CAT)

Vietnamese Women for Human Rights

Widows & Orphans

World Relief

INDIVIDUALS

Alyson Chadwick
Strategist, No Business With Genocide

Anna Sineva
Director of Government Relations & Public Policy, Church of Scientology National Affairs Office;
Co-chair, Congressional Working Group, IRF Roundtable

Anthony Vance
Senior Representative, Baha'is of the United States, Office of Public Affairs

Bryan Nerren
President
Asian Children Education Fellowship

Christopher G Istrati
Retired Foreign Service Officer, U.S. Department of State

Cynthia Sun
Researcher, Falun Dafa Information Center

David M Babu-Peddamudium
President, Sunshine Ministries

David Mikho
GPF Kurdistan

Dee E. Cook
CEO, Indigenous Ministries International

Mr. Dofa Francis

Emily Huang
President, Students for Falun Gong

Greg Mitchell
Founder & CEO, IRF Secretariat

Hamid Gharagozloo

Jennifer Z. Noyes
Executive Director, New Wineskins Missionary Network

Johann Huleatt
Outreach Director, Bruderhof

Karmella Borashan
Susek Evangelistic Association

Keegan Burke
Director, Alliance of Religions

Lauren Homer
President, Law and Liberty Trust

Liem Ly
Advocates for Faith and Justice in Vietnam (AFJV)

Lindsay Rodriguez
Director of Development & Advocacy, Coptic Solidarity

Loan Nguyen
Advocates for Faith and Justice in Vietnam (AFJV)

Rev. Dr. Lydia Gonzalez
Latino Faith Based Engagement

Rev. Dr. Marian Edmonds-Allen
Executive Director, Parity

Martha Hudson

Michelle Nguyen
Advocacy Coordinator, Vietnam Coalition Against Torture (VN-CAT)

Dr. Minerva Diaz
Owner/Principal, Lions Gate Communications, LLC – TX

Minh L. Nguyen
Coordinator, Buddhist Solidarity Association

Minh Le
Advocates for Faith and Justice in Vietnam (AFJV)

Nadine Maenza
President, IRF Secretariat

Rev. Neal Christie
Executive Director, Federation of Indian American Christian Organizations of North American
(FIACONA)

Dr. Nguyen Dinh Thang, PhD
President & CEO, Boat People SOS (BPSOS)

Patrice J. Pederson
President, First Freedom Foundation

Paul Marshall
Professor, Baylor University;
Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute;
Director, South and Southeast Asia Action Team, Religious Freedom Institute (RFI)

Dr. Paul Murray
International Vice President, Global Peace Foundation

Dr. Rehan Khan
Co-chair, India Working Group, IRF Roundtable

Sarajiki Pierson

Satoshi Nishihata
Bureau Chief, Happy Science USA Bureau

Scott Morgan
President, Red Eagle Enterprises

Sean Nelson
Legal Counsel for Global Religious Freedom, ADF International;
Co-chair, Prisoners of Conscience Working Group, IRF Roundtable

Shakeel Raphael
President, American Defenders for Persecuted Human

Sharyn Runyon
Chief of Staff, IRF Secretariat

Tanya Nguyen-Do
Founder, Thien Am Monastery at The Edge of The Universe

Thierry Valle
President, Coordination des Associations et des Particuliers pour la Liberté de Conscience

Tuan Nguyen
Community Engagement Coordinator, Boat People SOS

Chaplain Dr. Victoria Nguyen
Founder, CaoDai Today

Dr. William Devlin
CEO, Widows & Orphans (WidowsAndOrphans.info)

Y Phic Hdok
Cofounder & Coordinator, Montagnards Stand for Justice (MSFJ), USA