

Thank you, Ambassador Brownback, Commissioner Manchin, USIRF and all the participants for all the wonderful and effective work you do for the advancement of religious freedom across the globe.

Commissioner Manchin, you mentioned the recent Russian Anti Cult laws. The similarities between these laws and articles 499 and 500 of Volume 5 of the Islamic Penal Code in Iran are astounding. I guess they are all members of the same group.

Regarding the recent developments in Iran over the past week:

1. Few days ago, President Rohani admitted that there are more than 25M infected with COVID-19 in Iran and that the source of this virus is China.
2. It is confirmed that Mohammad Noorzad, Narges Mohammadi and 11 other prisoners of conscience are infected with COVID-19 and in the prison that Narges Mohammadi is held, there are no appropriate facilities or personnel to treat her. The lives of these people are in imminent danger.
3. Few days ago, the head of judiciary announced that protests and demonstrations will not be tolerated and protesters will be dealt with swiftly and harshly. The regime has already intensified its crack downs, harassments and arrests of dissidents.
4. The atrocities against the Iranian Sunnis, a population of 25 million people comprised of many ethnicities from across Iran, continues.
 - Over the past week alone, 17 Sunnis have been arrested and sentenced to long prison terms, 2 have been executed, one died under torture in prison, two were shot to death by IRGC members, one who was sentenced to 35 years of prison was informed that he will be executed in a few days, a Kurdish nuclear scientist was tortured for hours in his home and then hanged by the IRGC thugs.
 - Intimidation and harassment of Sunni religious leaders, without any apparent reason, continues.
 - The nonstop Intimidation, harassment and threats against the families of these victims continues. These families have been told that there would be more arrests and violence if they talk with media or on social media about the atrocities levied against their loved ones. In the case of those murdered, they would not release the bodies of the victims to their families for burial unless they promise to keep silent.
 - Based on our investigations, at least 70% of the families of these victims were unwilling to discuss their cases due to severe intimidation by the regime and fear of retribution.
 - Documents of these atrocities have already been sent to the proper authorities.
5. Few days ago, Khamenei's appointed envoy, Ali Larijani, traveled to China to work on finalizing the proposed agreement between the Chinese Communist Party and the occupying regime in Iran, for a \$450B investment by the CCP in Iran. We all know that the Chinese, and by Chinese I mean the Chinese Communist Party, - the Chinese people, like the Iranians, are victims of their respective governments – expect at least 10 times in return from their investments. The world is

transitioning from coal to oil and gas, and Iran has the second and third largest reserves of gas and oil in the world, resources that Chinese need desperately.

With permanent economic, industrial and military bases in Iran, it would be impossible to get China out of Iran for a long time, and with their support the occupying regime in Iran will last forever and our work here at IRF for religious freedom in Iran will be impossible, and very difficult in the region as a whole. I ask of all of you to join together to prevent this disaster from happening.

Maybe we can ask our European allies to join President Trump and this administration to impose the same severe sanctions on CCP as those levied against the Mullahs. Or any other idea or suggestions you may have. I greatly appreciate your help and participation in this urgent matter and gladly answer any questions you may have.