

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4989

To require an annual Department of State report on information relating to the promotion of religious freedom, democracy, and human rights in foreign countries by individuals, nongovernmental organizations, and the media in those countries, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 22, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, and Mr. ROHR-ABACHER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To require an annual Department of State report on information relating to the promotion of religious freedom, democracy, and human rights in foreign countries by individuals, nongovernmental organizations, and the media in those countries, and for other purposes.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Liberty List Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.**

6 The purpose of this Act is to—

1 (1) highlight the work and accomplishments of
2 individuals, nongovernmental organizations, and the
3 media that promote respect for religious freedom,
4 democracy, and human rights in foreign countries;

5 (2) draw attention to the conditions in such
6 countries in which these individuals, nongovern-
7 mental organizations, and media struggle;

8 (3) offer protection for these individuals, non-
9 governmental organizations, and media by identi-
10 fying them to the international community; and

11 (4) emphasize the special significance of respect
12 for religious freedom, democracy, and human rights
13 in United States foreign policy.

14 **SEC. 3. ANNUAL REPORT ON PROMOTION OF RELIGIOUS**
15 **FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS**
16 **IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES BY INDIVIDUALS,**
17 **NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND**
18 **THE MEDIA IN THOSE COUNTRIES.**

19 (a) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Foreign Assistance Act
20 of 1961 is amended by adding after section 116 (22
21 U.S.C. 2151n) the following new section:

1 **“SEC. 116A. ANNUAL REPORT ON PROMOTION OF RELI-**
2 **GIUS FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY, AND HUMAN**
3 **RIGHTS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.**

4 “(a) REPORT.—The Secretary of State shall annually
5 submit to Congress a full and complete report regarding
6 the promotion of religious freedom, democracy, and inter-
7 nationally recognized human rights in foreign countries by
8 individuals, nongovernmental organizations, and media
9 groups and organizations in those countries. The report
10 shall be entitled the ‘Annual Report on the Promotion of
11 Religious Freedom, Democracy, and Human Rights in
12 Foreign Countries by Individuals, Nongovernmental Orga-
13 nizations, and Media Groups and Organizations’.

14 “(b) PREPARATION.—The Secretary shall prepare the
15 Annual Report with the assistance of the Assistant Sec-
16 retary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor
17 and the Ambassador at Large for International Religious
18 Freedom.

19 “(c) CONTENTS.—The Annual Report shall contain,
20 with respect to a foreign country, the following informa-
21 tion:

22 “(1) An identification of individuals in the
23 country who have made significant efforts to pro-
24 mote religious freedom, democracy, or internation-
25 ally recognized human rights in that country, to-
26 gether with a description of the nature and extent

1 of those efforts and an assessment of progress made
2 as a result of those efforts.

3 “(2) An identification of nongovernmental orga-
4 nizations in the country that have made significant
5 efforts to promote religious freedom, democracy, or
6 internationally recognized human rights in that
7 country, together with a description of the nature
8 and extent of those efforts and an assessment of
9 progress made as a result of those efforts.

10 “(3) An identification of media groups and or-
11 ganizations in the country that have made signifi-
12 cant efforts to promote religious freedom, democ-
13 racy, or internationally recognized human rights in
14 that country, together with a description of the na-
15 ture and extent of those efforts and an assessment
16 of progress made as a result of those efforts.

17 “(d) ORGANIZATION.—The Annual Report shall be
18 organized in three parts, as follows:

19 “(1) Part I shall consist of the identification of
20 individuals (and the associated assessment of their
21 efforts) under subsection (b)(1).

22 “(2) Part II shall consist of the identification of
23 nongovernmental organizations (and the associated
24 assessment of their efforts) under subsection (b)(2).

1 “(3) Part III shall consist of the identification
2 of media groups and organizations (and the associ-
3 ated assessment of their efforts) under subsection
4 (b)(3).

5 “(e) TIME FOR SUBMISSION.—The Secretary shall
6 submit the Annual Report together with, but not as part
7 of, the presentation materials for security assistance pro-
8 grams proposed for each fiscal year.

9 “(f) CLASSIFICATION.—

10 “(1) UNCLASSIFIED FORM.—Except as provided
11 in paragraph (2), the Annual Report shall be sub-
12 mitted in unclassified form.

13 “(2) CLASSIFIED ANNEX.—The Secretary may
14 withhold the identification of an individual, non-
15 governmental organization, or media group or orga-
16 nization (including the associated assessment) if the
17 Secretary determines that disclosure would endanger
18 or harm such individual, nongovernmental organiza-
19 tion, or media group or organization. If the Sec-
20 retary makes such a determination, the Secretary
21 shall disclose such identification (and associated as-
22 sessment) in a classified annex.

23 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 “(1) ANNUAL REPORT.—The term ‘Annual Re-
25 port’ means the Annual Report on the Promotion of

1 Religious Freedom, Democracy, and Human Rights
2 in Foreign Countries by Individuals, Nongovern-
3 mental Organizations, and Media Groups and Orga-
4 nizations required under subsection (a).

5 “(2) INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED HUMAN
6 RIGHTS.—The term ‘internationally recognized
7 human rights’ has the meaning ascribed to it in sec-
8 tion 116(a).

9 “(3) MEDIA GROUP OR ORGANIZATION.—The
10 term ‘media group or organization’ means a group
11 or organization that gathers and disseminates news
12 and information to the public (through any medium
13 of mass communication) in a foreign country in
14 which the group or organization is located, except
15 that the term does not include a group or organiza-
16 tion that is primarily an agency or instrumentality
17 of the government of the foreign country. The term
18 includes an individual who is an agent or employee
19 of the media group or organization who acts within
20 the scope of such agency or employment.

21 “(4) NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION.—
22 The term ‘nongovernmental organization’ means an
23 organization that works at the local level to promote
24 religious freedom, democracy, or human rights in a
25 foreign country in which the organization is located,

1 except that the term does not include an organiza-
2 tion that is primarily an agency or instrumentality
3 of the government of the foreign country. The term
4 includes an individual who is an agent or employee
5 of the nongovernmental organization who acts within
6 the scope such agency or employment.

7 “(5) RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.—The term ‘reli-
8 gious freedom’ means the internationally recognized
9 right to freedom of religion and religious belief and
10 practice, as set forth in the international instru-
11 ments referred to in paragraph (2) of section 2(a)
12 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998
13 (22 U.S.C. 6401(a)) and as described in paragraph
14 (3) of such section.

15 “(6) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
16 the Secretary of State.”.

17 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 116A of the Foreign
18 Assistance Act of 1961, as added by subsection (a), shall
19 apply to reports submitted more than one year after such
20 date.

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