

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2466

To amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to include the desecration of cemeteries among the many forms of violations of the right to religious freedom.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 11, 2014

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. RISCH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to include the desecration of cemeteries among the many forms of violations of the right to religious freedom.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Cemeteries are sacred sites that are of great
6 spiritual, cultural, and historical significance to
7 many religious and ethnic groups.

8 (2) Congress is committed to protecting and
9 preserving the heritage and sacred sites of national,

1 religious, and ethnic groups, which include ceme-
 2 teries in the United States and abroad.

3 (3) Cemeteries around the world have, and con-
 4 tinue to be, defaced or destroyed as a direct result
 5 of their affiliation with a particular religious or spir-
 6 itual group.

7 (4) Such attacks constitute an assault on the
 8 fundamental right to freedom of religion, and are es-
 9 pecially egregious when sponsored or tolerated by
 10 the local or national governments in the countries in
 11 which such offenses occur.

12 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS**
 13 **FREEDOM ACT OF 1998.**

14 Section 2(a)(4) of the International Religious Free-
 15 dom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401(a)(4)) is amended by
 16 inserting “desecration of cemeteries,” after “confiscations
 17 of property,”.

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