



## **Republican National Committee**

**Counsel's Office**

### **RESOLUTION ON CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the Center for the Study of Global Christianity estimates that more than seventy million Christians have been martyred over the last two thousand years, with more than half of these in the twentieth century under fascist and communist regimes; and, that one million Christians were killed over the ten-year period from 2000 to 2010, with an average of one hundred thousand Christians killed each year; and

**WHEREAS**, persecution of Christians around the world is at an all-time high, as evidenced by the destruction of churches, homes, neighborhoods, and schools, and by the slaughter, beatings, torture, forced marriage, rape, kidnapping, enslavement, and imprisonment of innocent civilians in countries including Burma, China, Egypt, India, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Libya, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, and Zanzibar; and

**WHEREAS**, religious freedom is a fundamental human right that is legally secured for persons in the United States by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, and was established as a worldwide goal and priority for U.S. foreign and diplomatic policies by the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998; and

**WHEREAS**, the annual reports of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom and the United States State Department have over many years documented a strong correlation between religious freedom and societal health—that countries with religious freedom tend to be more stable, secure, and prosperous; and

**WHEREAS**, religious freedom is even recognized under Article 18 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states, “Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance;” and

**WHEREAS**, “political correctness” and the hostility toward faith generally, and Christianity in particular, by many intellectual, media, and entertainment elites in the United States have undermined the cultural and political foundations of religious freedom in our nation in recent years; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, the Republican National Committee recognizes the increasing persecution of Christians worldwide, condemns acts of terror and aggression, whether in the name of religious law or secularist ideology, and condemns legislative, executive, and judicial acts that weaken or violate the religious freedom of Christians and other people of faith in the United States; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, the Republican National Committee calls upon our President, Congressional leaders, and Governors to speak out against violations of religious freedom and the persecution of Christians here and abroad, and to promote religious freedom as a priority in all domestic and foreign policies and in diplomatic decisions; and, be it therefore finally

**RESOLVED**, the Republican National Committee calls upon Faith leaders of all denominations to speak out against persecution of Christians and others here and abroad, and calls upon church congregations to act in providing prayer and charitable support for persecuted believers at home and around the world.

*\*As adopted by the Republican National Committee on May 9, 2014.*