

104TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. RES. 283

To express the sense of the Senate concerning creation of a new position  
in the White House as Senior Advisor on Religious Persecution.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 26, 1996

Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. HELMS, Mr. BENNETT, and Mr. FAIRCLOTH)  
submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee  
on Foreign Relations

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# RESOLUTION

To express the sense of the Senate concerning creation of  
a new position in the White House as Senior Advisor  
on Religious Persecution.

- 1        (a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—
  - 2                (1) Americans are increasingly concerned about
  - 3                anti-Christian persecution overseas, including rape,
  - 4                torture, enslavement, imprisonment, killings, mutila-
  - 5                tions, discrimination, and mistreatment of Chris-
  - 6                tians, and the fact that far too many foreign govern-
  - 7                ments systematically deny their Christian citizens re-
  - 8                ligious liberty;

1 (2) reports indicate that the Government of  
2 Sudan is currently involved in the enslavement of  
3 the Christian populations of southern Sudan. Today  
4 in Sudan, a human being can be bought for as little  
5 as fifteen dollars. It has been estimated that in the  
6 last six years, more than 30,000 children have been  
7 taken from their homes, forcibly interned in “cul-  
8 tural cleansing camps,” forced to accept Islam and  
9 then moved to the front lines of Sudan’s civil war;

(3) in China, there are reports of the imprisonment and detention of many Chinese Christians under a 1994 law which restricts religious freedom. It has been reported that in 1992, Protestant leader Zheng Yunsu was arrested and sentenced to twelve years in jail simply for practicing his religion. Additionally, between October 1994 and June 1995, more than 200 Christians were apparently detained in the Henan province. One of those arrested, Ren Ping, was sentenced, without trial, to three years of reeducation through labor. According to Amnesty International, more than thirty Chinese Catholics in Jiangxi province were arrested and severely beaten while celebrating Easter Mass earlier this year;

24 (4) in the Muslim-controlled Oromo region of  
25 Ethiopia, reports indicate that in 1994, officials

1       raided the area's largest Christian Church and ar-  
2       rested most of its congregants. Many of those ar-  
3       rested died while in prison. The leader of the con-  
4       gregation was tortured and his eyes were plucked  
5       out;

6               (5) in several Islamic countries conversion to  
7       Christianity from Islam is a crime punishable by  
8       death;

9               (6) it has been reported that Christians have  
10       been effectively excluded from the political process in  
11       many countries. In Pakistan, for example, Christians  
12       can vote only for token representatives to the Na-  
13       tional Assembly;

14               (7) there is no Senior Advisor on religious per-  
15       secution in the White House to ensure that anti-  
16       Christian persecution overseas is given top priority  
17       by the White House and to coordinate efforts to  
18       combat such persecution; and

19               (8) the President had committed, in January  
20       1996, to appoint a White House Senior Advisor on  
21       religious persecution, but has yet to do so.

22       (b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the  
23       Senate that the President should proceed forward as expe-

- 1 ditiously as possible by appointing a White House Senior
- 2 Advisor on religious persecution.

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