

June 5, 2017

Rep. Edward Royce  
2310 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Royce,

**The undersigned faith-based, nontheist, and religious freedom advocacy organizations, as well as individuals involved with religious freedom advocacy, write in support of H. Res. 349, a bi-partisan international religious freedom resolution recently introduced by Reps. Jamie Raskin (D-MD), Alex Mooney (R-WV), David Cicilline (D-RI), and John Culberson (R-TX).**

This resolution calls upon the President and the U.S. State Department to make the repeal of blasphemy laws a priority in their relationships with countries that have such laws. In addition, this resolution encourages the President and the State Department to oppose any efforts at the United Nations or other international forums to support blasphemy laws, or any attempts to expand the international norm on incitement to include blasphemy or defamation of religions.

Blasphemy laws are the most explicit laws banning the expression of doubts or criticism regarding religion, and various countries employ them to ban criticism of religious beliefs, symbols, and figures. In several countries, the penalty for violating these laws is as severe as death. These laws harm not just the nonreligious, but dissidents in all religious sects.

Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, the Christian governor of Jakarta, Indonesia, was recently convicted by a panel of five judges that ruled he had insulted Islam. As a result, he was sentenced on May 9, 2017, to two years in jail. Basuki was unable to continue his position as governor of Jakarta and was replaced by his deputy.

Salmaan Taseer, the Muslim governor of the Punjab province in Pakistan, was killed in 2011 by his own bodyguard, Mumtaz Qadri, after he criticized Pakistan's blasphemy laws. Shaan Taseer, the son of Salmaan, is himself now the target of a police case and a fatwa calling for his killing after he recorded a message criticizing the country's blasphemy law.

Prakash Kumar, a Hindu resident of Pakistan, was arrested on May 3, 2017 after locals complained he allegedly posted blasphemous content online. Police have begun a criminal investigation into Kumar, and a local court has sent him to jail for further interrogation. Unfortunately, a mob gathered outside the police station where Kumar was being held and demanded that he be handed over to them. When law enforcement refused, the crowd turned violent, and in the ensuing violence a teenager was killed.

Raif Badawi, an advocate for freedom of religion, belief, and expression, was arrested and charged on June 17, 2012 with insulting Islam and blasphemy. On July 29, 2013, a criminal court sentenced Badawi to seven years in jail and 600 lashes. On May 7, 2014, a Saudi court issued a new sentence for Raif: 10 years in prison, 1,000 lashes, and a fine equivalent to \$267,000. On January 9, 2015, Saudi authorities gave Badawi the first 50 of his 1,000 lashes, and in June 2015 Saudi Arabia's Supreme Court upheld the sentence of 1,000 lashes and ten years in prison.

These are just some of the many cases of individuals who have been affected by blasphemy laws. Thankfully, Congress has the unique ability to promote international religious freedom on the global stage and to encourage governments of countries where religious and non-religious rights are not respected to remedy the situation. **As such, the undersigned groups urge you to co-sponsor this important resolution, and support its passage should it come to the House floor or a committee on which you serve.**

Sincerely,

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American Humanist Association  
Bleeding for Belief  
Center for Inquiry  
Center for Pluralism  
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Coptic Solidarity  
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International Institute for Religious Freedom  
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### INDIVIDUALS

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Scott Morgan  
International Religious Freedom Roundtable Working Group on Africa

Timothy Shah  
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William C. Walsh  
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June 5, 2017

Rep. Eliot Engel  
2462 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Engel,

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Rep. Jeff Duncan  
2229 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

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Rep. Ted Poe  
2132 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

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Rep. Dana Rohrabacher  
2300 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

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June 5, 2017

Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
2206 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Ros-Lehtinen,

**The undersigned faith-based, nontheist, and religious freedom advocacy organizations, as well as individuals involved with religious freedom advocacy, write in support of H. Res. 349, a bi-partisan international religious freedom resolution recently introduced by Reps. Jamie Raskin (D-MD), Alex Mooney (R-WV), David Cicilline (D-RI), and John Culberson (R-TX).**

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Rep. Christopher Smith  
2373 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

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Blasphemy laws are the most explicit laws banning the expression of doubts or criticism regarding religion, and various countries employ them to ban criticism of religious beliefs, symbols, and figures. In several countries, the penalty for violating these laws is as severe as death. These laws harm not just the nonreligious, but dissidents in all religious sects.

Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, the Christian governor of Jakarta, Indonesia, was recently convicted by a panel of five judges that ruled he had insulted Islam. As a result, he was sentenced on May 9, 2017, to two years in jail. Basuki was unable to continue his position as governor of Jakarta and was replaced by his deputy.

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Sincerely,

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Timothy Shah  
Religious Freedom Institute

William C. Walsh  
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June 5, 2017

Rep. Karen Bass  
2241 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Bass,

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Timothy Shah  
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William C. Walsh  
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June 5, 2017

Rep. Theodore Deutch  
2447 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Deutch,

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Timothy Shah  
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William C. Walsh  
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June 5, 2017

Rep. William Keating  
2351 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Keating,

**The undersigned faith-based, nontheist, and religious freedom advocacy organizations, as well as individuals involved with religious freedom advocacy, write in support of H. Res. 349, a bi-partisan international religious freedom resolution recently introduced by Reps. Jamie Raskin (D-MD), Alex Mooney (R-WV), David Cicilline (D-RI), and John Culberson (R-TX).**

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June 5, 2017

Rep. Gregory Meeks  
2234 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Meeks,

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Timothy Shah  
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June 5, 2017

Rep. Brad Sherman  
2181 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Sherman,

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June 5, 2017

Rep. Albio Sires  
2342 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Sires,

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June 5, 2017

Rep. Ami Bera  
1431 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Bera,

**The undersigned faith-based, nontheist, and religious freedom advocacy organizations, as well as individuals involved with religious freedom advocacy, write in support of H. Res. 349, a bi-partisan international religious freedom resolution recently introduced by Reps. Jamie Raskin (D-MD), Alex Mooney (R-WV), David Cicilline (D-RI), and John Culberson (R-TX).**

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Blasphemy laws are the most explicit laws banning the expression of doubts or criticism regarding religion, and various countries employ them to ban criticism of religious beliefs, symbols, and figures. In several countries, the penalty for violating these laws is as severe as death. These laws harm not just the nonreligious, but dissidents in all religious sects.

Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, the Christian governor of Jakarta, Indonesia, was recently convicted by a panel of five judges that ruled he had insulted Islam. As a result, he was sentenced on May 9, 2017, to two years in jail. Basuki was unable to continue his position as governor of Jakarta and was replaced by his deputy.

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Sincerely,

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Scott Morgan  
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Timothy Shah  
Religious Freedom Institute

William C. Walsh  
Bisceglie and Walsh

June 5, 2017

Rep. Brendan Boyle  
1133 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Boyle,

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Timothy Shah  
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Bisceglie and Walsh



June 5, 2017

Rep. Mo Brooks  
2400 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Brooks,

**The undersigned faith-based, nontheist, and religious freedom advocacy organizations, as well as individuals involved with religious freedom advocacy, write in support of H. Res. 349, a bi-partisan international religious freedom resolution recently introduced by Reps. Jamie Raskin (D-MD), Alex Mooney (R-WV), David Cicilline (D-RI), and John Culberson (R-TX).**

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Timothy Shah  
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William C. Walsh  
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June 5, 2017

Rep. Joaquin Castro  
1221 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Castro,

**The undersigned faith-based, nontheist, and religious freedom advocacy organizations, as well as individuals involved with religious freedom advocacy, write in support of H. Res. 349, a bi-partisan international religious freedom resolution recently introduced by Reps. Jamie Raskin (D-MD), Alex Mooney (R-WV), David Cicilline (D-RI), and John Culberson (R-TX).**

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June 5, 2017

Rep. Steve Chabot  
2371 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Chabot,

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June 5, 2017

Rep. Gerald Connolly  
2238 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Connolly,

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Timothy Shah  
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William C. Walsh  
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June 5, 2017

Rep. Paul Cook  
1222 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Cook,

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Timothy Shah  
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William C. Walsh  
Bisceglie and Walsh

June 5, 2017

Rep. Ron DeSantis  
1524 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative DeSantis,

**The undersigned faith-based, nontheist, and religious freedom advocacy organizations, as well as individuals involved with religious freedom advocacy, write in support of H. Res. 349, a bi-partisan international religious freedom resolution recently introduced by Reps. Jamie Raskin (D-MD), Alex Mooney (R-WV), David Cicilline (D-RI), and John Culberson (R-TX).**

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Blasphemy laws are the most explicit laws banning the expression of doubts or criticism regarding religion, and various countries employ them to ban criticism of religious beliefs, symbols, and figures. In several countries, the penalty for violating these laws is as severe as death. These laws harm not just the nonreligious, but dissidents in all religious sects.

Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, the Christian governor of Jakarta, Indonesia, was recently convicted by a panel of five judges that ruled he had insulted Islam. As a result, he was sentenced on May 9, 2017, to two years in jail. Basuki was unable to continue his position as governor of Jakarta and was replaced by his deputy.

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These are just some of the many cases of individuals who have been affected by blasphemy laws. Thankfully, Congress has the unique ability to promote international religious freedom on the global stage and to encourage governments of countries where religious and non-religious rights are not respected to remedy the situation. **As such, the undersigned groups urge you to co-sponsor this important resolution, and support its passage should it come to the House floor or a committee on which you serve.**

Sincerely,

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Timothy Shah  
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William C. Walsh  
Bisceglie and Walsh

June 5, 2017

Rep. Daniel Donovan  
1541 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Donovan,

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William C. Walsh  
Bisceglie and Walsh

June 5, 2017

Rep. Adriano Espaillat  
1630 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Espaillat,

**The undersigned faith-based, nontheist, and religious freedom advocacy organizations, as well as individuals involved with religious freedom advocacy, write in support of H. Res. 349, a bi-partisan international religious freedom resolution recently introduced by Reps. Jamie Raskin (D-MD), Alex Mooney (R-WV), David Cicilline (D-RI), and John Culberson (R-TX).**

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June 5, 2017

Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick  
514 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Fitzpatrick,

**The undersigned faith-based, nontheist, and religious freedom advocacy organizations, as well as individuals involved with religious freedom advocacy, write in support of H. Res. 349, a bi-partisan international religious freedom resolution recently introduced by Reps. Jamie Raskin (D-MD), Alex Mooney (R-WV), David Cicilline (D-RI), and John Culberson (R-TX).**

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June 5, 2017

Rep. Lois Frankel  
1037 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Frankel,

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June 5, 2017

Rep. Tulsi Gabbard  
1433 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Gabbard,

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William C. Walsh  
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June 5, 2017

Rep. Thomas Garrett  
415 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Garrett,

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June 5, 2017

Rep. Darrell Issa  
2269 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Issa,

**The undersigned faith-based, nontheist, and religious freedom advocacy organizations, as well as individuals involved with religious freedom advocacy, write in support of H. Res. 349, a bi-partisan international religious freedom resolution recently introduced by Reps. Jamie Raskin (D-MD), Alex Mooney (R-WV), David Cicilline (D-RI), and John Culberson (R-TX).**

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Blasphemy laws are the most explicit laws banning the expression of doubts or criticism regarding religion, and various countries employ them to ban criticism of religious beliefs, symbols, and figures. In several countries, the penalty for violating these laws is as severe as death. These laws harm not just the nonreligious, but dissidents in all religious sects.

Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, the Christian governor of Jakarta, Indonesia, was recently convicted by a panel of five judges that ruled he had insulted Islam. As a result, he was sentenced on May 9, 2017, to two years in jail. Basuki was unable to continue his position as governor of Jakarta and was replaced by his deputy.

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These are just some of the many cases of individuals who have been affected by blasphemy laws. Thankfully, Congress has the unique ability to promote international religious freedom on the global stage and to encourage governments of countries where religious and non-religious rights are not respected to remedy the situation. **As such, the undersigned groups urge you to co-sponsor this important resolution, and support its passage should it come to the House floor or a committee on which you serve.**

Sincerely,

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Scott Morgan  
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Timothy Shah  
Religious Freedom Institute

William C. Walsh  
Bisceglie and Walsh

June 5, 2017

Rep. Robin Kelly  
1239 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Kelly,

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June 5, 2017

Rep. Adam Kinzinger  
2245 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Kinzinger,

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June 5, 2017

Rep. Ted Lieu  
236 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Lieu,

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June 5, 2017

Rep. Tom Marino  
2242 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Marino,

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June 5, 2017

Rep. Brian Mast  
2182 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Mast,

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June 5, 2017

Rep. Michael McCaul  
2001 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative McCaul,

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June 5, 2017

Rep. Mark Meadows  
1024 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Meadows,

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Blasphemy laws are the most explicit laws banning the expression of doubts or criticism regarding religion, and various countries employ them to ban criticism of religious beliefs, symbols, and figures. In several countries, the penalty for violating these laws is as severe as death. These laws harm not just the nonreligious, but dissidents in all religious sects.

Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, the Christian governor of Jakarta, Indonesia, was recently convicted by a panel of five judges that ruled he had insulted Islam. As a result, he was sentenced on May 9, 2017, to two years in jail. Basuki was unable to continue his position as governor of Jakarta and was replaced by his deputy.

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Sincerely,

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Bleeding for Belief  
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Church of Scientology National Affairs Office  
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### INDIVIDUALS

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Timothy Shah  
Religious Freedom Institute

William C. Walsh  
Bisceglie and Walsh

June 5, 2017

Rep. Scott Perry  
1207 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Perry,

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Timothy Shah  
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William C. Walsh  
Bisceglie and Walsh

June 5, 2017

Rep. Francis Rooney  
120 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Rooney,

**The undersigned faith-based, nontheist, and religious freedom advocacy organizations, as well as individuals involved with religious freedom advocacy, write in support of H. Res. 349, a bi-partisan international religious freedom resolution recently introduced by Reps. Jamie Raskin (D-MD), Alex Mooney (R-WV), David Cicilline (D-RI), and John Culberson (R-TX).**

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William C. Walsh  
Bisceglie and Walsh

June 5, 2017

Rep. Bradley Schneider  
1432 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Schneider,

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June 5, 2017

Rep. F. Sensenbrenner  
2449 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Sensenbrenner,

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Timothy Shah  
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June 5, 2017

Rep. Thomas Suozzi  
226 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Suozzi,

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Timothy Shah  
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William C. Walsh  
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June 5, 2017

Rep. Dina Titus  
2464 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Titus,

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June 5, 2017

Rep. Norma Torres  
1713 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Torres,

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Blasphemy laws are the most explicit laws banning the expression of doubts or criticism regarding religion, and various countries employ them to ban criticism of religious beliefs, symbols, and figures. In several countries, the penalty for violating these laws is as severe as death. These laws harm not just the nonreligious, but dissidents in all religious sects.

Basuki Tjahaja Purnama, the Christian governor of Jakarta, Indonesia, was recently convicted by a panel of five judges that ruled he had insulted Islam. As a result, he was sentenced on May 9, 2017, to two years in jail. Basuki was unable to continue his position as governor of Jakarta and was replaced by his deputy.

Salmaan Taseer, the Muslim governor of the Punjab province in Pakistan, was killed in 2011 by his own bodyguard, Mumtaz Qadri, after he criticized Pakistan's blasphemy laws. Shaan Taseer, the son of Salmaan, is himself now the target of a police case and a fatwa calling for his killing after he recorded a message criticizing the country's blasphemy law.

Prakash Kumar, a Hindu resident of Pakistan, was arrested on May 3, 2017 after locals complained he allegedly posted blasphemous content online. Police have begun a criminal investigation into Kumar, and a local court has sent him to jail for further interrogation. Unfortunately, a mob gathered outside the police station where Kumar was being held and demanded that he be handed over to them. When law enforcement refused, the crowd turned violent, and in the ensuing violence a teenager was killed.

Raif Badawi, an advocate for freedom of religion, belief, and expression, was arrested and charged on June 17, 2012 with insulting Islam and blasphemy. On July 29, 2013, a criminal court sentenced Badawi to seven years in jail and 600 lashes. On May 7, 2014, a Saudi court issued a new sentence for Raif: 10 years in prison, 1,000 lashes, and a fine equivalent to \$267,000. On January 9, 2015, Saudi authorities gave Badawi the first 50 of his 1,000 lashes, and in June 2015 Saudi Arabia's Supreme Court upheld the sentence of 1,000 lashes and ten years in prison.

These are just some of the many cases of individuals who have been affected by blasphemy laws. Thankfully, Congress has the unique ability to promote international religious freedom on the global stage and to encourage governments of countries where religious and non-religious rights are not respected to remedy the situation. **As such, the undersigned groups urge you to co-sponsor this important resolution, and support its passage should it come to the House floor or a committee on which you serve.**

Sincerely,

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American Humanist Association  
Bleeding for Belief  
Center for Inquiry  
Center for Pluralism  
Christian Solidarity Worldwide  
Church of Scientology National Affairs Office  
Coptic Solidarity  
Federation of Indian American Christian Organizations  
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Scott Morgan  
International Religious Freedom Roundtable Working Group on Africa

Timothy Shah  
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William C. Walsh  
Bisceglie and Walsh

June 5, 2017

Rep. Ann Wagner  
435 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Wagner,

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June 5, 2017

Rep. Joe Wilson  
1436 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

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June 5, 2017

Rep. Lee Zeldin  
1517 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-1805

Dear Representative Zeldin,

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