

**an FYI... Congressional International Religious Freedom Caucus**

---

**From:** Burns Strider

**RELEASE IN PART  
B6**

**To:** 'H' hdr22@clintonemail.com

**Subject:** an FYI... Congressional International Religious Freedom Caucus

B6

Rep. Trent Franks and Rep. Emanuel Cleaver II

Urge you to attend a reception to honor the work of the

Congressional International Religious Freedom Caucus

Presented by the Jubilee Campaign in conjunction with China Aid Association, Freedom House, the Al Islam Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, the Mandaean Society of America, International Society for Krishna Consciousness—ISKCON, International Religious Liberty Association, Family Research Council, Coptic Assembly of America, Open Doors USA, American Islamic Congress, India Peace Initiative, The Center for Democracy and Human Rights in Saudi Arabia, Advocates International, U.S. Campaign for Burma, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the U.S., The Institute on Religion & Democracy, The American Islamic Forum for Democracy, Christian Solidarity International, The Coalition for the Defense of Human Rights, Initiatives for China, the Uyghur American Association, CSW-USA, and the Center for Religious Freedom of the Hudson Institute

THURSDAY, MARCH 19TH, 6:00 P.M. IN 2105 RAYBURN

SPEECHES BY MEMBERS OF THE CAUCUS

TESTIMONIES FROM THE PERSECUTED

REMARKS BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Dear Colleague,

By now you should have received an invitation from the Jubilee Campaign to attend a reception to celebrate the work of the Congressional International Religious Freedom Caucus and highlight the importance of continuing U.S. government efforts to promote and protect this foundational freedom.

The International Religious Freedom Caucus was created to honor the broad bipartisan, bicameral, and multi-faith support which enabled the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (IRFA) to become law. IRFA recognized the importance of religious freedom in U.S. history and made it a priority of U.S. foreign policy, assistance, and refugee law. During the 111th Congress, the Caucus will continue to draw attention to countries and issues of particular concern and brief colleagues on ways to ensure greater respect for an individual's freedom of religious belief throughout U.S. foreign policy.

The Caucus utilizes international standards as a basis for defining an individual's right to freedom of religious belief, including Article 18 of the 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.

We hope you will join us at this reception. For more information, please contact Tina Ramirez at 202-225-4576 or (Franks), and Kristen Handley at 202-225-4535 (Cleaver). To RSVP, please call Erin Weston at 703-503-0791 or email [erinweston@jubileecampaign.org](mailto:erinweston@jubileecampaign.org).

At this reception, you will hear from Caucus co-chairs, Representative Franks and Representative Cleaver, as well as many other individuals actively involved in this field, including:

- \* Kurt Donnelly: Director of the Department of State's Office of International Religious Freedom.
- \* Mark Hetfield: Senior Vice President for Policy and Programs at the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) who works with local Jewish communities to provide protection and assistance to vulnerable refugees around the world.
- \* Thomas Melia: Deputy Director at Freedom House, an organization that works with U.S. policymakers, as well as other governments and international institutions, to adopt policies that advance human rights and democracy around the world.
- \* Dr. Yang Xianli: Harvard Senior Fellow and President of Initiatives for China, and a survivor of the 1989 Tiananmen Square Massacre.
- \* Azhar Haneef: Full-time imam and regional missionary of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community since 1989.
- \* Dr. Suhaib Nashi: Leader of the Mandaean Society of America.
- \* Juliana Taimoorzay: Founder and President of the Iraqi Christian Relief Council will share her own story of persecution as a Catholic refugee from Iran.

Most sincerely,

---

Trent Franks  
United States Congress

---

Emanuel Cleaver, II  
United States Congress

Tina Ramirez  
Office of Congressman Trent Franks  
Second Congressional District of Arizona  
2435 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-4576

[www.house.gov/franks](http://www.house.gov/franks)