ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

The NAPSNet Policy Forum provides expert analysis of contemporary peace and security issues in Northeast Asia. As always, we invite your responses to this report and hope you will take the opportunity to participate in discussion of the analysis.

Recommended Citation

I. Introduction

The annual report of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, provided to the President and the Congress, serves as a critical tool for analyzing religious freedom as a human right. The policy of religious freedom in international relations between the United States and its allies is founded on the principle that all nations are entitled to determine their own path of religious life, free from the undue influence of foreign powers or organizations. This principle is enshrined in the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which are ratified by most nations around the world.

II. Essay by United States Commission on International Religious Freedom

The Commission continues to recommend that North Korea be designated as a country of particular concern for religious freedom. Despite recent improvements, religious freedom conditions have not improved to the point of full compliance with international standards. The Commission has found evidence of ongoing severe restrictions on religious freedom, including the persecution of religious believers, the closure of religious facilities, and the harassment of religious leaders and community members.

This is an excerpt from the annual report of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom. Readers should note that Nautilus seeks a diversity of views and opinions on contentious topics in order to identify common ground.