

Dear friends,

Freedom of religion is under threat all around the world !

This is what the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom states in its annual report that has been published last week.

In the report, we can read about 14 "countries of particular concern" (CPCs) because their governments engage in or tolerate "systematic, ongoing, egregious violations."

The 2020 Annual Report also recommends 15 countries for placement on the State Department's Special Watch List (SWL) for severe violations.

It is not a coincidence that our friends of IFamnews have promoted in these last days a Petition in order to ask to the President of the European Commission Von der Leyden to extend the Jan Figel's term as special envoy for the promotion of freedom of religion outside the EU. Few days ago, IFamnews' Director Marco Respinti has underlined well in his editorial how Jan Figel is the symbol of devotion in the fight for religious freedom all around the world.

His new term will be an important step for EU role in the defense of religious freedom.

No one should be persecuted because of his religion!

The USCIRF's 2020 annual report considers violations and progresses on religious freedom in many countries and describes and assesses U.S. international religious freedom policy overall. USCIRF recommends that the State Department designate "China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan, India, Nigeria, Russia, Syria, and Vietnam" as "countries of particular concern" (CPCs). USCIRF also recommends including Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Central African Republic (CAR), Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Sudan, Turkey, and Uzbekistan in a special State Department's Watch List (SWL) for severe violations. Foundation Novae Terrae ALWAYS promote and defend freedom of religion as part of our 'core mission'.

You remember very well, our common and real effort to restore Aleppo and its Holy Virgin Cathedral.