

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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### MEMORANDUM

January 23, 2020

**To: Members of the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties**

**Fr: Committee Staff**

**Re: Joint Hearing on “Ending Global Religious Persecution”**

On **Tuesday, January 28, 2020, at 2:00 p.m., in room 2172 of the Rayburn House Office Building**, the Subcommittee will hold a joint hearing with the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations examining the global religious persecution, with particular focus on the use of blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy laws to criminalize religious minorities and secularists.

#### **I. SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF THE HEARING**

Despite international consensus that the persecution of religious minorities and nontheists should not only be condemned, but outlawed, many governments around the world persist in violating the basic freedoms and human rights of millions of people. The world is currently watching the persecution of Uyghurs in China and the systematic murder of Rohingya in Myanmar. In addition to these broad attacks on religious minorities, many governments around the world have blasphemy, heresy, and apostasy laws on the books and have imprisoned or executed people for practicing a different religion or no religion at all.

#### **II. WITNESSES**

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