
WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS

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WILL AMERICANS ACCEPT FEDERAL RELIGIOUS MONITORING?

SUMMARY OF HR 1685 2431

Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA) introduced HR 1685 "...to provide for the imposition of sanctions against countries engaged in a pattern of religious persecution, and for other purposes." As currently written, the bill:

- Establishes an Office of Religious Persecution Monitoring (ORPM) to train government employees about the merits of, and differences in, religions. The stated purpose is to help identify potential persecutors and the persecuted.
- Allows for modification of our immigration policy to permit asylum for what the ORPM determines to be persecuted groups.
- Provides for a wide range of economic sanctions that the ORPM may impose upon individuals, countries and regions at its exclusive discretion.
- Provides for specific economic sanctions against the African country of Sudan which will go into effect as soon as the law is passed. Also, it would advance tacit approval for further action against Sudan before Christmas, 1997.

WHAT HR 1685 WILL DO

On the surface, the goal of reducing religious persecution is a noble aspiration. However, on closer examination, HR1685 would create more big government to "cure" the ills of the world. If passed, the bill would:

- **Erode constitutional government** by creating a

powerful bureaucracy wielding powers that the Constitution reserves exclusively for the Congress. The ORPM would have the authority to embargo countries without the approval of Congress. The Director of ORPM, appointed by the President and approved by the Senate, would effectively become a new Cabinet-level position with no further Congressional oversight.

- **Interfere with the Constitutional rights** of US Citizens to carry out dictates of their consciences by forbidding them, under threat of prison, to do any business with sanctioned nations. American citizens could be jailed for sending food to relatives in a sanctioned country.
- **Threaten first amendment freedom of religion** by giving government employees the authority to judge religions with respect to others. The First Amendment to the US Constitution states that Congress shall make no law prohibiting the free exercise of religion.
- **Promote world government** by citing the authority of the United Nations Charter and its documents on human rights. In addition, this bill looks to the UN Security Council to impose sanctions against Sudan.
- **Result in the death of innocent children and the defenseless** by starvation and disease. The bill provides for a selectively-declared food and medicine war on Sudan. The victims of an embargo are always the most defenseless - the old and the children. Embargoes never starve leaders!

WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS' ANALYSIS OF HR1685 & ITS POWER BASE

A WOLF IN LAMB'S ROBES

Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA) has introduced HR1685, entitled "TO PROVIDE FOR THE OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION MONITORING AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS AGAINST COUNTRIES ENGAGED IN PATTERNS OF RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Congressman Tony Hall (D-OH) and 26 other representatives have co-sponsored the bill. HR1685 has been "short named", "THE FREEDOM FROM RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION ACT OF 1997." The name taken by HR1685 is a serious distortion because the bill does not increase freedom. Rather, it expands the

dictatorial power of the Executive Branch. The bill will provide for a Cabinet level equivalent agency whose mandate would be to provide surveillance over religious groups. The President, through appointees, would instantly enjoy enormous powers to monitor and judge religious groups at his discretion, hitherto forbidden by the First Amendment to the Constitution.

The cabinet-like appointee, using embargoes and sanctions against nations, would have the power to cause starvation. No method of war-making is more destructive than that which places strangling, economic restrictions upon another nation. It is this power that is being conferred to the Executive Branch by HR1685. Only Congress has been granted the power to declare war under

our Constitution.

HR1685 clearly has a far reaching political objective. It is overtly and clearly designed to permanently alter our government by granting new, unrestricted authority to the Executive Branch. The bill is being so cleverly promoted that it has gained the support of a number of highly respected conservative Congressmen and a number of nationally known Christian leaders. They would normally be expected to resist any growth of government, especially where intrusion into religious freedom is involved.

KEEPING WATCH ON THE LAMBS

Section 5, of the 21 page HR1685 provides for **THE OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION MONITORING**. Its Director would be immediately appointed by President William Jefferson Clinton. The Director has nearly unrestricted authority to "sanction" simply by generating an internal report alleging religious persecution (Section 7). These sanctions could range from elimination of all air traffic, trade, financial transactions and selective targeting of individuals to a complete embargo of the designated, offending country. The Director is also authorized to press other countries and international banking organizations to join in the sanctions, thus effecting an embargo. Nothing in the language of this bill limits the agency to foreign countries or territories.

We shall call this proposed agency and its Director "The Office" for short. "The Office" must only make a case for some arbitrary level of religious persecution in order to bring sanctions against governments, provinces and individuals. The bill provides for no Congressional oversight, only an annual report to Congress! Section 6 provides that the Director appointed by the President must be approved by the Senate and will then act with the advice of only the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Treasury, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Commerce. According to Section 5.6, these five presidential appointees are to "insure that the provisions of this act are fully implemented," meaning they will have executive, as well as legislative authority.

Section 9 empowers "The Office" to evaluate and compare religions and to train government employees within various agencies, including the Department of Immigration and Naturalization. The Office will have broad authority to determine who may immigrate, merely by deciding if a certain group is persecuted.

The Office will study, rank and judge religions, supposedly to make informed decisions as to who is being persecuted and by whom. The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution states that "CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW RESPECTING AN ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION, OR PROHIBITING THE FREE EXERCISE THEREOF." Can Congress grant a power that it does not itself possess?

HR1685 would set a precedent the moment it becomes law by passing judgment on individuals based upon their religious beliefs. The first such case will be the alleged "radical extremist Muslims" which are designated in the bill, as distinguished from benign "moderate Muslims". Obviously, Muslims will be affected by this act by being religiously classified. A logical question every Christian should ask is, "Who will be next?" What is to prevent "The Office" from deciding that "Extremist Christians" are persecuting pro-abortion pantheists, or some other obscure sect. If "The Office" has a right to classify one religion as acceptable or not, why not all religions?

The bill does not define what it considers to be a "religion," so it is apparently free to make up its own definition. This alone should send Christian leaders into a cold sweat. One has only to

look at the exponential growth of the EPA, The Department of Education, the Department of Energy, or the IRS to imagine the threat to religious activism from "The Office" that has a mandate to monitor religions with no Congressional oversight.

Section 2 makes it clear that the authority for sanctioning another country, because of a perception of its internal religious activities, does not come from U.S. law or the American Constitution. That authority, according to the bill, comes from the United Nations Charter, the UN Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Covenants on Political and Civil Rights, which are quoted in the bill! HR1685 is openly promoting international law based upon the United Nations. A more noble and logical bill presently before Congress would require every bill introduced to quote in its introduction the Constitutional authority for the action being sought. HR1685 would fail this test because it depends upon UN rather than Constitutional authority, and fails to mention Constitutional authority!

Under Section 7, "The Office" may forbid US citizens from doing any business with any sanctioned nation. However, as the bill is composed it can be easily interpreted to restrict any contract with individuals in sanctioned countries. Fines and prison terms are provided for under the "Trading With The Enemy Act" and other referenced laws.

It is doubtful that a church or private charity could send humanitarian aid to the starving children in a country under this agency's sanction! For instance, a careful reading of the bill seems to dictate that American citizens from Sudan could be jailed for sending food to relatives. During the UN Embargo on Bosnia, American residents from Bosnia, supported by Christian citizens, braved the UN embargo by shipping and carrying medical supplies to Bosnian hospitals. Under HR1685 sanctions, they could be prosecuted by the Attorney General for "trading with the enemy." This is a further restriction of both our Constitutional freedoms of association and our rights to practice our religion!

VENGEANCE IS MINE SAYETH --

As stated in HR1685, Congress would immediately sanction the government of the North African Republic of Sudan. This sanction is an important part for winning the support of conservative and Christian leaders, and it is this writer's observation that the bill would have no chance of passing without it. In this sense, the people of Sudan are being used as a "straw man" to initiate "The Office" of Religious Persecution Monitoring in our country. Let us examine the logic behind the proposed sanctions against Sudan.

The Executive Branch has already usurped Congressional authority in other areas of war-making, including the sanctions of other countries, such as Bosnia, Iraq, Haiti and others, without permission of Congress. Hereafter, "The Office," without so much as Congressional debate, will have authority to turn sanctions and embargoes on and off like a spigot.

The promoters of HR1685 have carefully conditioned members of Congress and strategic members of the public, primarily nationally known Christians leaders, to accept the idea that the government of Sudan is a "renegade government" and deserves to be punished. This embargo and "subsequent actions" against Sudan would set a precedent for the unrestricted power of "The Office."

The obvious problem that does not seem to be discussed, is that sanctions may be imposed upon a government, but it is always the people who feel the effect. This can be supported by the self evident fact that sanctions on Cuba 35 years ago have still not

brought down Fidel Castro.

Further, HR1685 provides Congressional authorization for what can only be read to mean an undeclared war on Sudan before "December 25, 1997" (Section 12). Christians might wonder why this date was chosen to embargo, and perhaps invade Sudan.

As described in the bill, "The Office's" powers to sanction are an effective embargo because other world organizations may be pressured to join. What might be the consequences to the people of a third world country like Sudan? The bill does not tell us what it expects to accomplish, but a recent documentary film "Children of The Cradle," produced by the International Relief Organization, clearly demonstrates the effects of the six-year embargo on the children of Iraq. This documented and photographed account by doctors, who visited the children's hospitals in Iraq, conclude that at least 500,000 children have died of starvation and disease since the embargo was imposed. When Secretary of State Madeline Albright was asked about child starvation in Iraq, she is reported to have told Congress, "This is a price we have to pay." But the payment is not made by the leader of either country, it is paid by the weak and the very young.

There is sound reason to believe that an embargo on Sudan could starve even more children than in Iraq. According to the CIA's "World Factbook," Sudan is much poorer and more isolated than Iraq. The average income in Sudan was only \$800.00 per year in 1995, the average rate of birth is almost 6 children per woman and the population is made up of 72% children and women. Starvation knows no religion. Some of those who starve will be Christian children, as it was in Bosnia, Iran, Libya, and Rhodesia, where embargoes or sanctions have been imposed. No one can seriously argue that an embargo will not victimize those it claims to protect, the most defenseless: the old and the children.

Perhaps more important to Americans, the Congressionally approved sanctions against Sudan will set a precedent for future sanctions by "The Office" without Congressional approval! Why, we must ask, and for the benefit of whom?

WHO IS PROMOTING RELIGIOUS MONITORING

Among the primary promoters of HR1685 is Freedom House, a Washington based organization which claims its purpose is to monitor civil rights abuses and promote "the cause of liberty." It was founded in 1943 by Wendell Willkie and Eleanor Roosevelt. Willkie is best known for his book **ONE WORLD**, a call for world government promoting the concept of the United Nations. Curiously, Willkie ran for the presidency of the U.S. against Eleanor's husband Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1940.

The Trustee Board of Freedom House is dominated by members of the elitist Council on Foreign Relations. A comparison of the Annual Report of the Council On Foreign Relations to the F.H.'s Web Site (<http://www.freedomhouse.org>) reveals that 17 of 36 Officers and Trustees are CFR members, including the Chairman Betty Bao Lord, Secretary Kenneth Adelman, Chairmen Emeriti Leo Cherne and Max M. Kampelman, and Trustees Zbigniew Brzezinski, former Ambassador to the United Nations Jeanne Kirkpatrick and Samuel P. Huntington. Wendell Willkie II is also a Trustee. Freedom House has its roots in promotion of the United Nations, and is promoting world government through its Officers and Trustees.

Brzezinski is the author of **BETWEEN TWO AGES**, which might be described as a back door formula for world government. He was the first President of the globalist/internationalist, Tri-Lateral Commission and National Security Adviser under President Carter. Zbigniew Brzezinski, recommended a piecemeal

approach to slide the United States under the gate of world government. On page 296 of his book, Brzezinski states, "It makes much more sense to attempt to associate existing states through a variety of indirect ties and already developing limitations on national sovereignty." This is a good place to observe that "limiting national sovereignty" is exactly what HR1685 is designed to do by invoking United Nations law to support legislation that is repugnant to Constitutional law. But HR1685 does much more; it threatens the individual's right to worship as a Christian, Jew or Muslim.

FEEDING THE LAMBS

Concurrently with the introduction of HR1685, Freedom House published a 126 page book entitled, **In The Lion's Den**, 1997, Nina Shea, Broadman and Holman Publishers. The book is apparently a promotion piece and catalyst for HR1685. Author Shea tells us how the advance groundwork for HR1685 was laid by Freedom House. On page 85, we learn Freedom House entertained over 100 Christian leaders in Washington, in January 1996, including Congressmen Wolf and Hall. **In the Lion's Den** (endorsed by Rep. Hall) describes the meeting in a chapter called, "A Call To Action," where the sponsors clamor for a new Christian crusade, of sorts, to take place in the halls of Congress. The agenda for the meeting was Christian persecution in the Middle East and China. But the focus was really on several Muslim states, because at no time was China associated with any religions of its own. Christian leaders were extolled to demand that Congress do something to protect Christians in countries where "renegade governments" are in control, all of which were described as Muslim fundamentalists. The need to demand action is stressed, and the need to punish the Republic of Sudan for its persecution of Christians is a recurring theme in **In the Lion's Den**. According to the book, Freedom House mailed 70,000 briefing packages to church leaders nationwide after the meeting. This may account for why church leaders seem to have heard how evil the government of Sudan is!

What is troubling about Nina Shea's **In the Lion's Den** is that her appeal for authority aggrandizes the United Nations, the very institution that is proposed to us as the alternative to national, Constitutional government. On page 2 she writes, "The rights of Christians and other groups to practice their religions freely -- irrespective of the culture and custom of an area, or a Christian community's minority status -- is universally recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and numerous other international treaties and instruments." In other words, the United Nations World body has agreed that Christians have fundamental rights to express their Christianity, even in non-Christian parts of the world. The most specific of these documents is the United Nations "Declaration on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Based on Religious Belief." This declaration guarantees the rights of Christians and others to worship freely.

Ms. Shea states the United Nations provides the necessary authority for America to embargo other countries. She clearly assumes someone in our country has the right to make decisions for the rest of the world and ignores the 211 year old precedent that says otherwise.

LEADING THE LAMBS

Several of the Christian leaders and conservative writers who have endorsed the book staunchly denounce *the United Nations* as an instrument of world government. **In The Lion's Den** seems to have overcome this problem by convincing conservatives that

"renegade governments" are a greater evil and threat to Christians than world government. They seem to have lost their fear of joining hands with the United Nations and of turning authority and discretion over to the Clinton Administration.

This response is not so hard to understand after one reads **In The Lion's Den**. It is passionately convincing. The author employs gut wrenching emotion to sell her arguments that the Islamic government of Sudan is evil and only the United Nations provides the authority to bring it down.

Freedom House's estimate of 1.3 million deaths from the war may not be exaggerated based upon other sources. But, it appears it is statistically impossible that most victims were Christians, as the reader is intentionally led to believe. First, very little, if any, evidence is presented that the mass of alleged victims in Sudan were "Christians." According to the Central Intelligence Agency "World Factbook," 1996 (<http://www.odcigov/cia>), only 5% of Sudan's 31 million people are classified as Christians and no indication is given that this percentage has changed. Therefore, Freedom House seems to have buried more Christians than ever existed in Southern Sudan. Its figures become more puzzling in considering Southern Sudan, where most of the killing is said to have occurred.

According to the "WORLD FACTBOOK" the religious mixture in Sudan is 70% Muslim religions, 5% Christians and most of the rest tribal or pagan. Most Christians live in the capital city Khartoum and in the south. Various estimates give the south 70% tribal religions with the balance split between Christian and Muslim. It appears the Islamic government would have had to kill every Christian several times to total 1.3 million Christians in Southern Sudan.

Another chasm in logic is found in Freedom House's definition of a "Christian." Nowhere in her book does the author provide her own religious testimony, nor does she tell us what she means when she uses the term, "Christian." However, one clue is found on page 5 where she states, "Christians are targeted by ruthless dictators who demand total power and control, intolerant of those who believe in the Supreme Being -- the transcendental God -- or inherent dignity of all persons created in God's image."

This definition of Christianity may explain how Freedom House derives its vast numbers of Christian casualties. It would fit almost anyone. Most of the 1.3 million people who are thought to have died in 15 years of war may qualify as Christians, if all one has to believe in is "the inherent dignity of all persons created in God's image."

Another leap of faith Freedom House expects of us, is that all these Christians were killed or enslaved for religious reasons. Little proof of this is offered in **In the Lion's Den**, which simply assumes that every dead Christian has been killed on account of his religion. No possibility is afforded that some may have died because he was an opposing soldier in the civil war, civilians caught in a fire fight, or simply starved or died of war related diseases, as many children have.

In **The Lion's Den's** account of martyred Christians include more than a few genuine and very sad cases. Some accounts of child slavery are verifiable, but there is also evidence of exaggeration here. Its sources offer generalized, often second hand statements, but no outside evidence to indicate slavery victims are related to Christianity.

It is not our purpose to debate that subject of religious persecution in this article. The "Warmaker's Attack on Religious Fundamentalism", published by We Hold These Truths, does. It also contains a good bit of history of the organizations that are promoting HR1685. [*] It is, however, necessary in the interest of

understanding the powerful promotion effort behind HR1685, to point out that Freedom House makes no pretense of balance in its call for a Crusade to pass HR1685. It has fanned the smoke from small incidents over the coals of impassioned imagination to arrive at "millions" of dead and enslaved "Christians."

When one considers the potential damage to our Constitutional system and the human suffering that may result if HR1685 becomes law, it is tempting to attack Nina Shea for her journalism. But this would be an error, for she has done a very good job of furthering the case for the "one world" agenda her employer has espoused for 50 years. Shame on those who have bought the story at face value and now find themselves endorsing legislation that gives Bill Clinton the authority to appoint a Religious Persecution Monitor with full Cabinet powers.

We have taken the time to examine **In the Lion's Den** to focus on the slick promotion behind HR1685, which depends upon sanctions on Sudan as bait for support to obtain its passage. Those who fund Freedom House know exactly where HR1685 is aimed; it is to promote Religious Monitoring as a means to shift the power of our Constitutional government to an internationalist one.

FLEECING THE LAMBS

No amount of misdeeds by leaders of other lands against their own people justifies Congress abrogating their Constitutional authority into the hands of the President, or to anyone else. Nor is Freedom House's emotional, "eye for an eye" approach against The Republic of Sudan a Christian response that justifies one vote of support for HR1685. Two wrongs do not make a right. If America ever sets out to judge, bomb and starve every country that mistreated its own citizens, then this stolen power will soon be turned against those of our own citizenry who stand in the tyrants' way.

Mean as the plan is, Sudan is not the issue! The embargo and subsequently planned war upon Sudan is, no more or less than, a front for the even more devious purpose of creating an Office of Religious Persecution, with power of surveillance over all religious establishments everywhere.

If there were a contest to introduce a bill based on potential destructiveness, HR1685 should win the dubious award. We Hold These Truths urges both Congressmen and religious leaders to read the entire text of HR1685, to look behind the emotional appeal for a Crusade and then reject it and those who promote it.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Call Christian leaders, Congressmen and Senators and urge them to work to defeat HR 1685. Accept no compromise. The Freedom From Religious Persecution Act, as it is called, is a trap for unsuspecting Americans that will serve internationalists' purposes. The law that takes the rights or life of another would eventually consume those who accept it.

[*] "The Warmaker Series," available on our web site.

by C.E. Carlson

Copies of this report available for 10 for \$5.00 ppd.

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