December 9, 2021

The Honorable Antony Blinken

Secretary

U.S. Department of State

2201 C Street NW

Washington, DC 20520

Subject: Urging designation of India as Country of Particular Concern (CPC)

Dear Secretary Blinken,

We, the undersigned organizations and individuals, are deeply disappointed by your decision to not designate India as a Country of Particular Concern (CPC), as recommended by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) earlier this year.

It is unfathomable that the United States does not recognize the Indian government’s systematic, ongoing, and egregious violation of religious freedoms, when the Department of State’s own report on religious freedom in India that you had released in May 2021 clearly described the escalating violence against India’s religious minorities, especially Muslims and Christians.

The USCIRF’s annual reports, both in 2021 and 2020, have established beyond doubt that the Indian Government was “engaging in and tolerating systematic, ongoing, and egregious religious freedom violations, as defined by the International Religious Freedom Act (IRA).”

The national security and strategic imperatives of the United States are not strengthened but actually undermined if the U.S. government continues to ignore rising religious persecution and human rights abuses in India. President Biden himself reminded Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi of Mahatma Gandhi’s message of “tolerance, nonviolence and diversity” in their meeting at the White House in September.

We, therefore, urge you to reconsider your decision and designate India as a CPC at the earliest.

With greatest appreciation for your attention to these matters,

**Organizational Endorsements:**

1. American Muslim Institution
2. Dalit Solidarity Forum in the USA
3. Federation of Indian American Christians of North America
4. Genocide Watch
5. Greentree Global
6. Hindus for Human Rights
7. Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA) Council for Social Justice
8. India Civil Watch International
9. Indian American Muslim Council
10. International Christian Concern
11. International Society for Peace and Justice
12. Islamic Society of North America
13. Jubilee Campaign USA
14. Justice For All
15. Law and Liberty Trust
16. New Wineskins Missionary Network
17. New York State Council of Churches
18. Parity
19. Prayer Pioneers
20. Red Eagle Enterprises
21. The Orthodox Public Affairs Committee
22. Tom Lantos Foundation For Human Rights and Justice

**Individual Endorsements:**

*Institutional affiliation is provided for identification purposes only and does not constitute institutional endorsement.*

1. Amb. Islam Siddiqui, President, American Muslim Institution
2. Ann Buwalda, Executive Director, Jubilee Campaign USA
3. David Kimball, Humanist Chaplain, Cleveland Clinic, Vero Beach, FL
4. Jennifer Noyes, Executive Director, New Wineskins Missionary Network
5. Imam Saffet Catovic, Islamic Society of North America Office for Interfaith and Community Alliances
6. Katrina Lantos Swett, President, Tom Lantos Foundation For Human Rights and Justice
7. Lauren Homer, President, Law and Liberty Trust
8. Rehan Khan, MD, President, International Society for Peace and Justice
9. Rev. Marian Edmonds-Allen, Executive Director, Parity
10. Rev. Susan Taylor, National Public Affairs Director, Church of Scientology National Affairs Office
11. Scott Morgan, President, Red Eagle Enterprises
12. Sunita Viswanath, Executive Director, Hindus for Human Rights
13. Victor Begg, Interfaith Community Leader, Interfaith Alliance of the Treasure Coast
14. Zahrah Mir, Communications Specialist, Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA) Council for Social Justice