

rounding region that have engaged in particularly severe violations of religious freedom; and

(2) designate, in a manner consistent with such Act [22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.], each such non-state actor as an entity of particular concern for religious freedom.

(b) Report

Whenever the President designates a non-state actor under subsection (a) as an entity of particular concern for religious freedom, the President, as soon as practicable after the designation is made, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the reasons for such designation.

(c) Actions

The President should take specific actions, when practicable, to address severe violations of religious freedom of non-state actors that are designated under subsection (a)(2).

(d) Department of State annual report

The Secretary of State should include information detailing the reasons the President designated a non-state actor as an entity of particular concern for religious freedom under subsection (a) in the Annual Report required under section 102(b)(1) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6412(b)(1)).

(e) Sense of Congress

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Secretary of State should work with Congress and the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom—

(A) to create new political, financial, and diplomatic tools to address severe violations of religious freedom by non-state actors; and

(B) to update the actions the President can take under section 405 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6445);

(2) governments must ultimately be held accountable for the abuses that occur in their territories; and

(3) any actions the President takes after designating a non-state actor as an entity of particular concern should also involve high-level diplomacy with the government of the country in which the non-state actor is operating.

(f) Determinations of responsible parties

In order to appropriately target Presidential actions under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401 et seq.), the President, with respect to each non-state actor designated as an entity of particular concern for religious freedom under subsection (a), shall seek to determine, to the extent practicable, the specific officials or members that are responsible for the particularly severe violations of religious freedom engaged in or tolerated by such non-state actor.

(g) Definitions

In this section, the terms “appropriate congressional committees”, “non-state actor”, and “particularly severe violations of religious freedom” have the meanings given such terms in section 3 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6402), as amended by section 3 of this Act.

(Pub. L. 114-281, title III, §301, Dec. 16, 2016, 130 Stat. 1433.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The International Religious Freedom Act of 1998, referred to in subsecs. (a)(2) and (f), is Pub. L. 105-292, Oct. 27, 1998, 112 Stat. 2787, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 6401 of this title and Tables.

Section 3 of this Act, referred to in subsec. (g), means section 3 of Pub. L. 114-281, which amended section 6402 of this title.

CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act, and not as part of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 which comprises this chapter.

§ 6443. Consultations

(a) In general

As soon as practicable after the President decides to take action under section 6441 of this title in response to violations of religious freedom and the President decides to take action under paragraphs (9) through (15) of section 6445(a) of this title (or commensurate action in substitution thereto) with respect to that country, or not later than 90 days after the President designates a country as a country of particular concern for religious freedom under section 6442 of this title, as the case may be, the President shall carry out the consultations required in this section.

(b) Duty to consult with foreign governments prior to taking Presidential actions

(1) In general

The President shall—

(A) request consultation with the government of such country regarding the violations giving rise to designation of that country as a country of particular concern for religious freedom or to Presidential action under section 6441 of this title; and

(B) if agreed to, enter into such consultations, privately or publicly.

(2) Use of multilateral fora

If the President determines it to be appropriate, such consultations may be sought and may occur in a multilateral forum, but, in any event, the President shall consult with appropriate foreign governments for the purposes of achieving a coordinated international policy on actions that may be taken with respect to a country described in subsection (a), prior to implementing any such action.

(3) Election of nondisclosure of negotiations to public

If negotiations are undertaken or an agreement is concluded with a foreign government regarding steps to cease the pattern of violations by that government, and if public disclosure of such negotiations or agreement would jeopardize the negotiations or the implementation of such agreement, as the case may be, the President may refrain from disclosing such negotiations and such agreement to the public, except that the President shall inform

the appropriate congressional committees of the nature and extent of such negotiations and any agreement reached.

(c) Duty to consult with humanitarian organizations

The President should consult with appropriate humanitarian and religious organizations concerning the potential impact of United States policies to promote freedom of religion in countries described in subsection (a).

(d) Duty to consult with United States interested parties

The President shall, as appropriate, consult with United States interested parties as to the potential impact of intended Presidential action or actions in countries described in subsection (a) on economic or other interests of the United States.

(Pub. L. 105–292, title IV, § 403, Oct. 27, 1998, 112 Stat. 2804.)

§ 6444. Report to Congress

(a) In general

Subject to subsection (b), not later than 90 days after the President decides to take action under section 6441 of this title in response to violations of religious freedom and the President decides to take action under paragraphs (9) through (15) of section 6445(a) of this title (or commensurate action in substitution thereto) with respect to that country, or not later than 90 days after the President designates a country as a country of particular concern for religious freedom under section 6442 of this title, as the case may be, the President shall submit a report to Congress containing the following:

(1) Identification of Presidential actions

An identification of the Presidential action or actions described in paragraphs (9) through (15) of section 6445(a) of this title (or commensurate action in substitution thereto) to be taken with respect to the foreign country.

(2) Description of violations

A description of the violations giving rise to the Presidential action or actions to be taken.

(3) Purpose of Presidential actions

A description of the purpose of the Presidential action or actions.

(4) Evaluation

(A) Description

An evaluation, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Ambassador at Large, the Commission, the Special Adviser, the parties described in section 6443(c) and (d) of this title, and whoever else the President deems appropriate, of—

- (i) the impact upon the foreign government;
- (ii) the impact upon the population of the country;
- (iii) the impact upon the United States economy and other interested parties; and
- (iv) the impact on the advancement of United States interests in democracy, human rights, and security, and a description of policy tools being applied in the

country, including programs that target democratic stability, economic growth, and counterterrorism.

(B) Authority to withhold disclosure

The President may withhold part or all of such evaluation from the public but shall provide the entire evaluation to Congress.

(5) Statement of policy options

A statement that noneconomic policy options designed to bring about cessation of the particularly severe violations of religious freedom have reasonably been exhausted, including the consultations required in section 6443 of this title.

(6) Description of multilateral negotiations

A description of multilateral negotiations sought or carried out, if appropriate and applicable.

(b) Delay in transmittal of report

If, on or before the date that the President is required (but for this subsection) to submit a report under subsection (a) to Congress, the President determines and certifies to Congress that a single, additional period of time not to exceed 90 days is necessary pursuant to section 6441(b)(3) or 6442(c)(3) of this title, then the President shall not be required to submit the report to Congress until the expiration of that period of time.

(Pub. L. 105–292, title IV, § 404, Oct. 27, 1998, 112 Stat. 2805; Pub. L. 114–281, title III, § 303, Dec. 16, 2016, 130 Stat. 1435.)

AMENDMENTS

2016—Subsec. (a)(4)(A)(iv). Pub. L. 114–281 added cl. (iv).

§ 6445. Description of Presidential actions

(a) Description of Presidential actions

Except as provided in subsection (d), the Presidential actions referred to in this subsection are the following:

- (1) A private demarche.
- (2) An official public demarche.
- (3) A public condemnation.
- (4) A public condemnation within one or more multilateral fora.
- (5) The delay or cancellation of one or more scientific exchanges.
- (6) The delay or cancellation of one or more cultural exchanges.
- (7) The denial of one or more working, official, or state visits.
- (8) The delay or cancellation of one or more working, official, or state visits.
- (9) The withdrawal, limitation, or suspension of United States development assistance in accordance with section 2151n of this title.
- (10) Directing the Export-Import Bank of the United States, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, or the Trade and Development Agency not to approve the issuance of any (or a specified number of) guarantees, insurance, extensions of credit, or participations in the extension of credit with respect to the specific government, agency, instrumentality, or official found or determined by the Presi-