

Religious Freedom Day on Capitol Hill

June 20, 2006

Location: Senate Dirksen Office Building, Room G50

Promoting, Protecting, Preserving Religious Freedom around the World

**** Draft Agenda as of 6/16/06****

HOST: Senator Rick Santorum, Chairman, Senate Republican Conference

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- 8:00-9:00 a.m. Set-up in room, coffee
- 9:00-9:30 a.m. **House Majority Whip, Roy Blunt (R-MO)**
Special Address by Ambassador John Hanford, Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, Department of State
- 9:30-10:30 a.m. **PANEL I: RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN THE UNITED STATES**
- Introduction: Sen. Norm Coleman (R-MN)
- Religious Freedom and Marriage: Anthony Picarello, Esq. The Becket Fund for Religious Liberty: Issues of Religious Freedom and Marriage
- Religious Freedom and Work (The Workplace Religious Freedom Act): Nathan Diament, Esq. Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America
- Religious Freedom and Education (Treatment of Religious Freedom on college campuses): Greg Lukianoff, President, Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE)

10:30-11:30 a.m.

PANEL II: EMERGING ISSUES

Introduction: **Rep. Todd Akin (R-MO)**
Rep. Trent Franks (R-AZ)

Part I: Emerging Issues

Moderator: **William J. Murray**, Religious Freedom Coalition

Dr. Paul Marshall, Center for Religious Freedom, Freedom House. Apostasy and blasphemy laws: New frontier.

Professor Walid Phares, Senior Fellow, Foundation for the Defense of Democracies. Threat of Jihadism and the protection of religious minorities in the Muslim world.

Part II: Encouraging Pluralistic Change from Within Muslim Countries

Moderator: **Rev. Dr. Keith Roderick**, Christian Solidarity International

Dr. Wafa Sultan, Psychologist

Eli El-Khoury, Founder, 2005 Independence (Lebanon's movement) and a Member of the Cedar Revolution

Ravi Krishnamurthy, Director of Programs, LibForAll Foundation

11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. **PANEL III: A LOOK AROUND THE WORLD**

Introduction: **Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS)**

Moderator: **Nina Shea**, Vice-Chair, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom

COUNTRY OVERVIEWS

- **North Korea:** David Hawk, former Executive Director, Amnesty International, USA
- **Iran:** Kit Bigelow, Baha'is of the U.S.

- **China:** David Aikman, author, *Jesus in Beijing*
- **India:** Joseph D'Souza, Dalit Freedom Network
- **Egypt and Vietnam:** Ann Buwalda, Jubilee Campaign
- **Russia:** Cathy Cosman, USCIRF
- **Saudi Arabia:** Ali Alyami, Center for Democracy and Human Rights in Saudi Arabia

12:30-1:00 p.m.

VIEW FROM THE UNITED NATIONS

John Bolton, U.N. Ambassador

Positive news on the religious freedom front

CLOSING REMARKS

Sen. Rick Santorum (R-PA)