

113TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4028

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 2, 2014

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

AN ACT

To amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to include the desecration of cemeteries among the many forms of violations of the right to religious freedom.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Cemeteries are sacred sites that are of great
4 spiritual, cultural, and historical significance to
5 many religious and ethnic groups.

6 (2) Congress is committed to protecting and
7 preserving the heritage and sacred sites of national,
8 religious, and ethnic groups, which includes ceme-
9 teries in the United States and abroad.

10 (3) Cemeteries around the world have and con-
11 tinue to be defaced or destroyed as a direct result
12 of their affiliation with a particular religious or spir-
13 itual group.

14 (4) Such attacks constitute an assault on the
15 fundamental right to freedom of religion, and are es-
16 pecially egregious when sponsored or tolerated by
17 the local or national governments in the countries in
18 which such offenses occur.

19 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREE-**
20 **DOM ACT OF 1998.**

21 Section 2(a)(4) of the International Religious Free-
22 dom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401(a)(4)) is amended in

1 the fourth sentence by inserting “desecration of ceme-
2 teries,” after “confiscations of property,”.

Passed the House of Representatives May 28, 2014.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

Clerk.