FAITH J. H. MCDONNELL, DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS LIBERTY PROGRAM AND CHURCH ALLIANCE FOR A NEW SUDAN INSTITUTE ON RELIGION AND DEMOCRACY WASHINGTON, DC





THE HISTORY OF THE MOVEMENT TO FIGHT RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

EARLY ADVOCACY BEFORE SOCIAL MEDIA

Soviet Union and Eastern Europe Organizations/Free Soviet Jewry Campaign Individual cases/Members of Congress

- Frank Wolf
- Chris Smith
- Tom Lantos and Annette Lantos
- Jackson-Vanik Amendment

WHAT DID WE DO?

Mailings from organizations:

Information
Prayer Points

Write letters, send faxes to prisoners, Congress, Soviet officials, psychiatric hospitals, labor camp commandants

1996: A NEW MOVEMENT BEGAN

January 1996: We came together

Why then?

WHY WAS AN ADVOCACY EFFORT FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS NEEDED?

BUILDING A CONSTITUENCY

"Politics are downstream from culture" Wolf Provoke Interest Provide Information

INTRODUCTION OF THE WOLF/SPECTER BILL FALL 1997

Freedom from Religious Persecution Act

OPPOSITION TO THE BILL

- Clinton Administration
- Foreign Policy Establishment and some human rights groups
- Trade Lobby
- Some Churches
- (National Council of Churches)

STRUGGLE TO PASS BILL "doomed"...

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"dead in the water"

New York Times

PASSAGE OF THE 1998 INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT

Second to last day, 105th Congress, October 1998

Signed into law by President Clinton, October 27, 1998.

WHAT CHANGES IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY TO ADVOCATE FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM?

- State Department Office of Religious Freedom
- U.S. Commission on International Rel. Freedom
- Religious Freedom institutionalized in U.S. government, foreign policy establishment

ENCOURAGED OTHER LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS:

- Trafficking Victims Protection Act
- Sudan Peace Act
- North Korea Freedom Act
- Sudan Divestment Campaign
- Comprehensive Peace Agreement
- Sudan, North Korea, and Middle East Special Envoys
- Middle East and South Asia Caucus
- Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission

WHAT NIGERIA SHOWS US

Nigeria



DIRECT COMMAND FROM GOD:

Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter.

If you say, "But we knew nothing about this," does not HE who weighs the heart perceive it?

Proverbs 24: 11, 12

ACCOUNTABILITY







IF WE, THEN . . .

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and until the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?... THEN your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear...IF you do away with the yoke of oppression... THEN your light will rise in the darkness.

Isaiah 58: 6, 8, 9, 10

Sudan













How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him, but if Baal is God, follow Him. Then, says the Bible, The people said NOTHING. 1 Kings 18: 21



THERE IS NO TIME TO WAVER

INSPIRING PASSION FOR THE PERSECUTED

- Nehemiah
- David
- Esther
- Moses