



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

TENNESSEE

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

VIRGINIA

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

March 18, 2026

The Honorable Ted Budd
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Budd,

On behalf of the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) and the hundreds of thousands of Americans who support our work defending religious liberty around the world, we write to express our strong support for the policies contained in S. 3679, the *Banning Perpetrators of Religious Persecution Act*.

S. 3679 would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to deny U.S. visas to foreign individuals responsible for significant violations of religious freedom. At its core, it affirms a simple truth: those who persecute people of faith should not be welcomed into the United States.

Religious freedom is not a policy preference in America; it is a foundational principle. The First Amendment to the Constitution protects the free exercise of religion because our Founders understood that faith must never be subject to government coercion. They rightly acknowledged that our freedoms are God-given, not government-granted. When individuals or regimes violate that fundamental liberty, they attack one of the most basic rights recognized in both American law and international human rights standards.

Sadly, the persecution of religious believers remains a daily reality for millions across the globe. The ACLJ has long been engaged in defending persecuted Christians and other religious minorities worldwide. Nowhere is this crisis more evident than in Nigeria, where extremist violence and systemic failures by authorities have left Christian communities vulnerable to regular devastating and deadly attacks. Churches have been burned, pastors kidnapped, families driven from their homes, and thousands killed simply for professing their faith. Unfortunately, Nigeria is just one example of religious persecution, as these events are happening in many countries around the world.

For decades, the ACLJ has called for stronger international accountability measures to address these atrocities. We have supported Country of Particular Concern designations under the International Religious Freedom Act, intervened at the U.N. Human Rights Council, and called on U.S. leaders to confront the growing epidemic of anti-Christian violence.

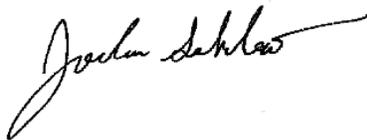
S. 3679 provides a targeted and effective tool to hold perpetrators accountable. By restricting visas for individuals who have directed, supported, or carried out violations of religious freedom, Congress can ensure that those responsible for persecution cannot enjoy the privilege of entering the United States. This approach focuses consequences directly on those responsible for abuse, rather than imposing broad penalties that may harm innocent populations.

Measures like this reinforce America's role as a global defender of liberty. When the United States takes concrete steps to defend religious freedom, it sends a powerful message to the world: persecution will not be ignored, and those who participate in it will face real consequences. That moral clarity is essential at a time when religious believers across the globe are increasingly targeted for violence, discrimination, and imprisonment.

The ACLJ strongly believes that defending religious liberty is both a constitutional duty and a moral imperative. As our policy work has consistently emphasized, promoting international religious freedom is a cornerstone of American leadership and an essential part of protecting human dignity worldwide. S. 3679 advances these principles in a clear and meaningful way.

Thank you for your leadership on this critical issue and for your continued commitment to defending one of humanity's most fundamental freedoms. The ACLJ stands with you and with the ideal that the United States must remain firmly on the side of those who are persecuted for their faith.

Sincerely,



Jordan Sekulow
Executive Director
American Center for Law and Justice



CeCe Heil
Senior Counsel and International Legal Director
American Center for Law and Justice



Mark Kelly
Director of Government Affairs
American Center for Law and Justice