



September 26, 2016

The Honorable Gary Johnson



*Re: ISIS Genocide Against Christians and Other Religious Minorities*

Dear Mr. Johnson:

By way of introduction, the American Center for Law & Justice (ACLJ) is an organization dedicated to the defense of constitutional liberties secured by law. ACLJ attorneys have argued before the Supreme Court of the United States and other federal and state courts in a number of significant cases involving the freedoms of speech and religion. The ACLJ and its international affiliates defend human rights and religious liberty around the world.

The Islamic State (ISIS) is currently committing genocidal acts intended to destroy and obliterate Christians and other religious minorities in Iraq, Syria and elsewhere in the region. With this reality in mind, the purpose of this correspondence is to request that you provide a plan of action and a commitment to execute that plan that lets the American people know how you, as President of the United States, would end this genocide and aid and protect the victims. We submit this correspondence on behalf of our organization and over 213,000 Americans from all 50 states who have signed our Petition calling for a committed, meaningful response to the ISIS genocide.

On March 14, 2016, the United States House of Representatives unanimously passed a bipartisan resolution declaring ISIS beheadings, enslavement, mass rape, and other atrocities against Christians and other religious minorities as genocide.<sup>1</sup> Shortly thereafter, United States Secretary of State John Kerry declared that “Daesh is responsible for genocide against groups in areas under its control, including Yezidis, Christians, and Shia Muslims. Daesh is genocidal by self-proclamation, by ideology, and by actions – in what it says, what it believes, and what it does.”<sup>2</sup> In fact, numerous international legal, institutional and charitable organizations have also all condemned ISIS’s acts as genocide.

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<sup>1</sup>H.R. Con. Res. 75, 114<sup>th</sup> Cong. (1st Sess. 2015).

<sup>2</sup>John Kerry, *Remarks on Daesh and Genocide*, U.S. DEP’T OF STATE (Mar. 17, 2016), <http://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2016/03/254782.htm>.



Earlier this year, the ACLJ launched the following Seven-Point Plan in its campaign to end the genocide and aid and protect the victims. We submit and recommend to you the following actions as integral to any plan that will successfully end this genocide.

- Call upon the United Nations Secretary General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights to formally recognize the genocide against Christians and other religious minorities and demand that the United Nations as a whole do so as well.
- Call upon the United Nations Office of Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide to fulfill its role “as a catalyst . . . to alert relevant actors where there is a risk of genocide, and to advocate and mobilize for appropriate action.”
- Call upon the United Nations Security Council to refer the matter of genocide prosecution to the International Criminal Court; or establish “ad hoc tribunals” for genocide prosecution.
- Demand international intervention to protect Christians and other religious minorities from genocide. International law requires that when a State “is manifestly failing to protect its populations” from genocide, “the international community must be prepared to take collective action to protect populations . . . .”
- Call upon the United States Department of State and the United States delegation to the United Nations to demand United Nations action as set forth above.
- Call for the establishment of in-region “safe zones” for the genocide victims. The establishment of these “safe zones” eliminates the need for mass refugee relocation to the United States before proper safeguards can be implemented.
- Call for the creation of an effective international coalition to defeat ISIS militarily, for example, by expanding military efforts, changing the focus of the effort, and/or reevaluating the strategy of military action.

While we believe that these actions are necessary to end ISIS’s genocide against Christians and other religious minorities, we are well aware that there is much more that can and must be done. As such, we request that you provide the American citizens with a clear and detailed plan of action that indicates how you intend, if elected President of the United States, to end this genocide and protect the victims. In addition, we urge you to make a public commitment that, as President, you would indeed put that plan into action.

Again, on behalf of over 213,000 Americans, we thank you for your attention to this crisis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jay Alan Sekulow". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Jay Alan Sekulow  
Chief Counsel