

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 147

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 1, 1997

**By Assemblywoman FRISCIA, Assemblyman STEELE,
Assemblywoman Weinberg and Assemblyman Zisa**

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** calling upon all New Jerseyans to make
2 themselves aware of religious persecution throughout the world and to urge
3 their representatives in the Congress of the United States and the President
4 of the United States to take certain actions.
5
6 **WHEREAS**, The columnist A. M. Rosenthal of The New York Times has
7 provided a valuable service to its readers with his column of February 11,
8 1997 in which he called attention to the persecution of Christians
9 throughout the world, especially as highlighted by Nina Shea, director of
10 the Puebla Program of Freedom House, in her book In the Lion's Den;
11 and
12 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Shea notes that "Millions of American Christians pray in their
13 churches each week, oblivious to the fact that Christians in many parts of
14 the world suffer brutal torture, arrest, imprisonment and even death--their
15 homes and communities laid waste--for no other reason than that they are
16 Christians"; and
17 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Shea also notes that "The shocking untold story of our time is
18 that more Christians have died this century simply for being Christians than
19 in the first nineteen centuries after the birth of Christ" and that "They have
20 been persecuted and martyred before an unknowing, indifferent world and
21 a largely silent Christian community"; and
22 **WHEREAS**, According to Ms. Shea, "Eleven countries where Christians are
23 currently enduring great religious persecution are China, Sudan, Pakistan,
24 North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, Egypt, Nigerian, Cuba, Laos and
25 Uzbekistan. . . "; and
26 **WHEREAS**, The persecutions include: a pogrom in the Sudan, where the
27 Islamic militant government has bombed and burned Christian villages,
28 taken Christian children as slaves, and tortured Christian worshipers and
29 their priests; the prohibition in Saudi Arabia of any public expression of
30 Christianity or any religion but Islam; the imprisonment in China of
31 thousands of Roman Catholic and Protestant Chinese for holding worship,
32 preaching, or distributing Bibles without permission; and

