



AHMADIYYA  
MUSLIM COMMUNITY  

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United States of America

*Muslims who believe in the Messiah,  
Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani<sup>ra</sup>.*

June 5, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

As the oldest active Islamic organization in the United States (est. 1920), the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA has enjoyed the right to freely practice its faith and preach the peaceful message of Islam in an effort to foster religious harmony across the nation for more than 90 years. In most Muslim-majority countries, however, Ahmadis—like numerous other religious groups—are denied basic rights of expression, and, in some cases, prohibited from fulfilling fundamental tenets of our faith. The Pakistani government, for example, long ago amended its constitution to declare Ahmadis as ‘non-Muslim’; it penalizes Ahmadis for using even basic Islamic expressions, common to all sects, with up to three years in prison; it effectively prohibits Ahmadis from voting in elections. In several countries in the Middle East as well, Ahmadis have been arrested, deported and barred from official registration, solely due to their religious beliefs.

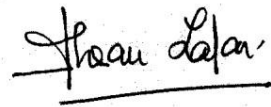
So it is with great earnestness that the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA supports the impetus behind U.S. Representative Frank Wolf’s reintroduction of the special envoy bill (H. Res 301): protecting religious freedom for all people in all parts of the world, but in particular where this issue is most acute—South Asia and the Middle East. Religious communities and rights groups across the country have voiced their support for this bill, which demonstrates its commitment to equality for all religious groups, large and small. While the U.S. already has an Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, appointing a special envoy to protect religious freedom in South Asia and Middle East, in particular, where Ahmadis too are especially vulnerable, will undoubtedly reinforce and enhance our nation’s deep commitment to protecting international human rights.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA whole-heartedly supports every noble endeavor designed to foster religious freedom. We are thus grateful to all those who *champion* religious freedom, like Rep. Wolf. As co-Chair of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, Rep. Wolf has for years helped to promote

religious freedom in ways that have seen concrete results for persecuted groups. His efforts and accomplishments cannot be overstated, which is why Rep. Wolf has been awarded the 2013 Ahmadiyya Humanitarian Award.

We pray that the day soon arrives when all people are able to freely express and practice their religious beliefs, and we shall endeavor to always support causes to that end.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ahsanullah Zafar". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Ahsanullah Zafar  
National President  
Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA