



## 2013 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 85

March 13, 2014 – Introduced by Senator GROTHMAN, cosponsored by Representative JACQUE. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1     **Relating to:** the persecution of Christians on a worldwide scale.

2             Whereas, it has been known that throughout history Christians have faced  
3     countless amounts of persecution for their beliefs, resulting in the loss of life and  
4     destruction of property; and

5             Whereas, this persecution is worldwide and occurs in Africa, the Middle East,  
6     and Southeast Asia; and

7             Whereas, there have been Christians massacred in Nigeria as churches are  
8     attacked, bombed, and burned by Islamic extremists; and

9             Whereas, Coptic Orthodox Christians have been persecuted in Egypt for over  
10    50 years, and to this day continue to face persecution; and

11            Whereas, the Chaldean Christians in Iraq have experienced kidnappings and  
12    murders of their religious leaders since 2003 at the hands of Islamic extremists; and

13            Whereas, during the Arab Spring, Christians suffered in Syria where Christian  
14    towns were burned and hundreds of Christians were killed; and

1           Whereas, Christian females in Pakistan are being abducted and taken from  
2 their families by Muslim kidnappers each year; and

3           Whereas, there have been several cases of persecution in China where the  
4 rights of Christians facing arrest were violated as well as instances where Protestant  
5 priests have been beaten; and

6           Whereas, several Christians were recently taken into custody in the Shaanxi  
7 Province in China and were tortured brutally and to this day still remain in prison;  
8 and

9           Whereas, many Christians turn to worship in secret in order to avoid the heavy  
10 regulations placed on Christian worship from the Chinese Government, and these  
11 Christians are often imprisoned and tortured for illegal assembly; and

12           Whereas, just this year a Christian library in Lebanon was set on fire and tens  
13 of thousands of books were burned, this aggressive action was unwarranted and was  
14 the result of oppressive action by the Lebanese Government; and

15           Whereas, it is estimated that currently over 200 million Christians are being  
16 persecuted worldwide; and

17           Whereas, it is critical that government bodies such as ourselves express our  
18 disapproval towards the worldwide persecution of religious groups belonging to the  
19 Christian Faith; and

20           Whereas, the world continues to see Christians persecuted by other religious  
21 groups and nation-states to this day; this is a problem that negatively impacts  
22 millions of Christian people every day; and this persecution is not a myth, but is a  
23 stunning reality; now

