

HRES 290

Calling for the global repeal of blasphemy laws.

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Jun 2, 2015

Current Status: Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee (Amended) by Voice Vote .

Latest Action: Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee (Amended) by Voice Vote . (Jul 14, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-resolution/290>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Pitts, Joseph R. [R-PA-16]

Party: Republican • **State:** PA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (32 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		Jun 2, 2015
Rep. Franks, Trent [R-AZ-8]	R · AZ		Jun 12, 2015
Rep. Vargas, Juan [D-CA-51]	D · CA		Jun 12, 2015
Rep. Gowdy, Trey [R-SC-4]	R · SC		Jul 7, 2015
Rep. Bishop, Mike [R-MI-8]	R · MI		Jul 16, 2015
Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-18]	D · CA		Jul 16, 2015
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Jul 28, 2015
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		Sep 8, 2015
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]	D · IL		Sep 24, 2015
Rep. Cárdenas, Tony [D-CA-29]	D · CA		Nov 2, 2015
Rep. Miller, Jeff [R-FL-1]	R · FL		Dec 15, 2015
Rep. Hartzler, Vicky [R-MO-4]	R · MO		Dec 16, 2015
Rep. Smith, Christopher H. [R-NJ-4]	R · NJ		Jan 13, 2016
Rep. Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1]	D · RI		Feb 25, 2016
Rep. Chabot, Steve [R-OH-1]	R · OH		Mar 16, 2016
Rep. Meadows, Mark [R-NC-11]	R · NC		Mar 16, 2016
Rep. Ribble, Reid J. [R-WI-8]	R · WI		Mar 16, 2016
Rep. Rohrabacher, Dana [R-CA-48]	R · CA		Mar 16, 2016
Rep. Wilson, Joe [R-SC-2]	R · SC		Mar 16, 2016
Rep. Kelly, Mike [R-PA-3]	R · PA		Apr 11, 2016
Rep. Marino, Tom [R-PA-10]	R · PA		Apr 11, 2016
Rep. Poe, Ted [R-TX-2]	R · TX		Apr 11, 2016
Rep. Weber, Randy K., Sr. [R-TX-14]	R · TX		Apr 13, 2016
Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [D-CA-11]	D · CA		Apr 14, 2016
Rep. Hultgren, Randy [R-IL-14]	R · IL		Apr 14, 2016
Rep. Keating, William R. [D-MA-9]	D · MA		Apr 14, 2016
Rep. Shuster, Bill [R-PA-9]	R · PA		Apr 14, 2016
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]	D · CA		Apr 18, 2016
Rep. Fitzpatrick, Michael G. [R-PA-8]	R · PA		Apr 20, 2016
Rep. Donovan, Daniel M., Jr. [R-NY-11]	R · NY		May 16, 2016
Rep. Conyers, John, Jr. [D-MI-13]	D · MI		Sep 7, 2016
Rep. Capuano, Michael E. [D-MA-7]	D · MA		Nov 14, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Reported by	Jul 14, 2016

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Jun 2, 2015)

Recognizes that blasphemy laws position governments as arbiters of truth or religious rightness as they empower officials to enforce particular religious views against individuals and minorities.

Calls on the President and the Department of State (Department) to make the repeal of blasphemy laws a priority in their relationships with countries that have such laws.

Encourages the President and the Department to oppose any efforts at the United Nations (U.N.) or other international or multilateral fora to create an international anti-blasphemy norm, or attempts to expand the international norm on incitement to include blasphemy or defamation of religions.

Supports efforts at the U.N. to combat intolerance or violence against persons based on religion or belief without restricting expression.

Reaffirms the decision to designate Saudi Arabia as a "country of particular concern" for detaining and imprisoning people for blasphemy and for imposing torture, cruel or degrading treatment or punishment, and limit the waiver on this designation to no more than 180 days.

Calls on the President and the Department to designate Pakistan and Egypt each as a "country of particular concern" for perpetrating and tolerating particularly severe violations of religious freedom, including abuses flowing from the enforcement of blasphemy laws and from vigilante violence around blasphemy allegations that takes place with impunity.

Urges the governments of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and other countries to amend or repeal their blasphemy laws as they provide a pretext for violence against religious minorities.

Urges those countries that have imprisoned people on charges of blasphemy to release them and ensure their safety and that of their families.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 14, 2016:** Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Jul 14, 2016:** Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee (Amended) by Voice Vote .
- **Aug 20, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations.
- **Jun 2, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 2, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.