

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 18, 2001

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 3, 2001

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 30, 2001

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2001–02 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 23

Introduced by Assembly Member Maddox

(Principal coauthor: Senator Dunn)

~~(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aanestad, Bates, Bill Campbell, Cogdill, Correa, Cox, Hollingsworth, Leonard, Leslie, Runner, Wyman, Alquist, Ashburn, Bogh, Briggs, John Campbell, Canciamilla, Cardenas, Cardoza, Cedillo, Cohn, Corbett, Daucher, Dickerson, Dutra, Firebaugh, Florez, Harman, Havice, Horton, Jackson, Keeley, Kelley, La Suer, Leach, Maldonado, Matthews, Mountjoy, Nakano, Nation, Negrete McLeod, Robert Pacheco, Rod Pacheco, Papan, Pescetti, Reyes, Richman, Salinas, Simitian, Steinberg, Washington, Wayne, Wesson, Wyland, and Zettel)~~

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Aanestad, Alquist, Ashburn, Bates, Bogh, Briggs, Bill Campbell, John Campbell, Canciamilla, Cardenas, Cardoza, Cedillo, Cogdill, Cohn, Corbett, Correa, Cox, Daucher, Dickerson, Dutra, Firebaugh, Florez, Harman, Havice, Hollingsworth, Horton, Jackson, Keeley, Kelley, La Suer, Leach, Leonard, Leslie, Maldonado, Matthews, Mountjoy, Nakano, Nation, Negrete McLeod, Robert Pacheco, Rod Pacheco, Papan, Pescetti, Reyes, Richman, Runner, Salinas, Simitian, Steinberg, Washington, Wayne, Wesson, Wyland, Wyman, and Zettel)

(Coauthors: Senators Costa, Haynes, *Johnson*, Margett, and Morrow)

February 21, 2001

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 23—Relative to religious freedom in Vietnam.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 23, as amended, Maddox. Vietnam: religious freedom.

This measure would express the support of the Legislature for religious freedom for the people of Vietnam.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The United States Department of State and
2 international human rights organizations have reported that the
3 Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam continues to
4 restrict unregistered religious activities and persecutes citizens on
5 the basis of their religious affiliation through arbitrary arrests and
6 detention, harassment, physical abuse, censorship, and the denial
7 of the right of free association and religious worship; and
8 WHEREAS, The United States Department of State's Annual
9 Report on International Religious Freedom for 2000 on Vietnam
10 estimates that there are more than 30 religious detainees and
11 religious prisoners but that the number is difficult to verify with
12 any precision because of the secrecy surrounding the arrest,
13 detention, and release process; and
14 WHEREAS, The Vietnam government's tactics include
15 confiscation of church property, imprisonment of clerics and
16 followers, restriction of church activities, including the right to
17 ordain, publish written materials, or perform social services
18 functions; and
19 WHEREAS, The Government of the Socialist Republic of
20 Vietnam systematically violates the International Covenant on
21 Civil and Political Rights in contravention of its status as a
22 signatory to that agreement; and
23 WHEREAS, The Vietnamese American Interfaith Council
24 which represents Catholics, Baptists, Buddhists, Cao Dai, and Hoa
25 Hao, brought together hundreds of residents and local political and
26 religious leaders in Westminister, California on January 6, 2001, to
27 call for religious freedom in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; and
28 WHEREAS, The Vietnam government's behavior toward
29 ~~religions~~ *religion* in general and the Catholic Church in particular,
30 was demonstrated as recently as December 2000; Father Tadeus



1 Nguyen Van Ly and others were harassed and attacked; now
2 therefore, be it

3 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
4 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature of the State of California
5 supports religious freedom for the people of the Socialist Republic
6 of Vietnam, and recommends that the United States Congress
7 demand that the government of that country release all religious
8 prisoners, and immediately cease the harassment, detention,
9 physical abuse, and imprisonment of all Vietnamese citizens who
10 have exercised their legitimate rights to freedom of belief,
11 expression, association, and religious worship; and be it further

12 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
13 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

