

#55

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2583
OFFERED BY MR. SMITH OF NEW JERSEY

At the end of title VIII, add the following:

1 **SEC. _____ PLIGHT OF COPTIC CHRISTIANS IN EGYPT.**

2 (a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Coptic Christians in Egypt have been sub-
4 ject to discrimination, oppression, and violent at-
5 tacks as documented by the United State Commis-
6 sion on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)
7 and other human rights groups.

8 (2) USCIRF has called for Egypt to be des-
9 ignated as a Country of Particular Concern pursu-
10 ant to the International Religious Freedom Act of
11 1998.

12 (3) Credible reports concerning the disappear-
13 ance, forced conversion, and forced marriages of
14 Coptic Christian women and girls in Egypt reveal a
15 consistent pattern of targeting such vulnerable indi-
16 viduals with deceptive practices, often involving psy-
17 chological and physical abuse, including rape, beat-
18 ings, confinement, and isolation from their families.

19 (4) The Government of Egypt has failed to
20 credibly investigate these allegations, creating a cli-

1 mate of impunity for the perpetrators of these
2 crimes and denying justice to the victims and their
3 families.

4 (5) The current political uncertainty in Egypt
5 has increased concerns as to whether the religious
6 freedom and other human rights of Coptic Chris-
7 tians will be respected and protected.

8 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
9 gress that the Administration should include the protec-
10 tion of Coptic Christian communities and respect for their
11 human rights as a priority in diplomatic engagements with
12 the Government of Egypt, including regular bilateral con-
13 sultations on the status of investigations, prosecutions,
14 sentencing and imprisonment of perpetrators of human
15 rights violations against Coptic Christians.

