

## Let's Secure Religious Freedom!

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70th U.S. Secretary of State



It is a pleasure to be addressing you today for this Conference of Hope. I also want to sincerely commend Dr. Moon for her leadership, and for her lifelong commitment to peace.

I'd like to begin by discussing China. For weeks now, the Chinese people have openly rejected the oppression of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Make no mistake, these are the most widespread and fervent protests the CCP has faced since 1989. The bravery of the protesters today has been inspiring to so many of us, and we should do all we can to support them. Now, the media has portrayed this movement as being about the regime's "zero-COVID" policies. That's only part of the story, though.

Fundamentally, these protests are about freedom. The CCP's consistent actions over the years and its response to these protests are about securing its permanent control and authority. While the communist regime may now claim to be lifting some of its zero- COVID policies, the greater fight remains. You can be sure that its tactics of censorship and brutal oppression will remain.

This holds true elsewhere in the world as well. As Secretary, I battled these adversaries every day. To secure religious freedom, we must remain committed to engagement and dialogue – even with governments that don't have religious freedom.

But we must also stand together against the clear threats to this fundamental right, and there is no greater threat today than that which is posed by communism.

We see this playing out in Japan today, as Speaker Newt Gingrich wrote about recently.

In the wake of the tragic assassination of Prime Minister Abe, the Japanese Communist Party (JCP) has been attacking the Unification Church. The JCP has alleged the church is engaged in corruption and is a threat to society and that it undermines Japan's interests.

Nothing could be further from the truth.

We must not allow this to happen. America and other free, democratic, and God affirming nations must set the example. We must stand together against the threat communism poses and never waver in this commitment. I encourage you all to keep up the fight! Thank you, and God bless You!