FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 9, 2012

**Fast facts about the 7th World Congress for Religious Freedom**

1. The Dominican Republic will host more than 800 people, coming from 65 countries and six continents, for a three-day event—the largest-ever IRLA World Congress.
2. It will be held at the Barceló Bávaro Beach Resort, April 24-26, 2012.
3. This is the seventh International Religious Liberty World Congress, and the first to be held in the Inter-American region. Previous Congresses were held in:

* Amsterdam 1977
* Rome 1984
* London 1989
* Rio De Janeiro 1997
* Manila 2002
* Cape Town 2007

1. The theme of the 7th World Congress for Religious Freedom is: “Secularism and Religious Freedom—Conflict or Partnership?”
2. Among the many dignitaries travelling to the Dominican Republic to attend the Congress are:

Prime Minister Gerrit Schotte of Curacao; The Honorable Brent Symonette, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the Bahamas; Ambassador Robert Seiple, former United States Ambassador-at-Large for Religious Freedom; Minister Carlos Portillo, Minister of Religious Affairs for Honduras; Minister Caridad Diego Bello, Minister of Religion for Cuba; Judge Daniel Nsereko, President of the Appeals Chamber of the International Criminal Court at the Hague; Judge Amjad Shammout, President of the Arab Bridge Center for Development and Human Rights in Jordan; Judge Acacio Adelso, Vice Chairman of the Judicial Disciplinary Court of the Republic of Venezuela; Senator Aurekio Iragorri, Senator of the Republic of Colombia; Secretary Sergey Melnikov, Executive Secretary of the Council on Interaction with Religious Associations under the Office of the President of the Russian Federation; Dr Neville Callam, General Secretary of the Baptist World Alliance; Attorney Tiffany Barrans, International Legal Director for the American Center for Law and Justice; Dr Denton Lotz, General Secretary Emeritus of the Baptist World Alliance; Dr Ted N.C. Wilson, President of the Seventh-day Adventist world church; Dr Larry Miller, Secretary of the Global Christian Forum; Attorney Knox Thames, Director of Policy, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom.

1. The event is organized and sponsored by the International Religious Liberty Association—a non-sectarian organization dedicated to defending and promoting freedom of religion for people of *all* faiths ([www.irla.org](http://www.irla.org)).

* Chartered in 1893, the International Religious Liberty Association has non-governmental organization consultative status at the United Nations, and it exists to defend, protect, and promote religious liberty for all people, everywhere.
* It has affiliates and partner associations in 80 countries, and is the world’s oldest association for defending religious freedom.
* Its primary focus is to organize congresses, symposiums, conferences, and seminars, and to work with legislators, governments, and religious leaders to promote and defend religious freedom, and to assist victims of religious intolerance.

***More information and press credentials***

If you would like more information, interview requests, or press credentials for attending this event, please contact:

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