

- Not calling for cuts to Pakistan aid, but for pressure to be exerted for religious freedom.

Maire O'Brien (Canada Asia Working Group):

Speaking about China:

- Churches were being desecrated and though there has been significant progress made with respect to freedom and tolerance, there are continuing elements of fear and intolerance.
- Although all religious groups have religious freedoms unprecedented in relation to the past, more open attitudes on the part of central, as well as local, authorities are still needed.
- The laws in place to protect religious practices are ostensibly to protect the state's control of religious activity, but they also ensure uniform application of controls, i.e. protect against arbitrary implementation by local cadres.
- Welcomes Canada's co-sponsorship of a resolution on freedom of religion at the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.
- Impassioned pleas made at the Roundtable need to be grounded on some sort of methodology that will help those assembled to develop realistic frameworks for domestic and international policy development and implementation.

***Bonnie Greene (United Church of Canada):**

- Need for DFAIT to create a Canadian table on this issue.
- This group should be multidisciplinary (NGOs, governments, academics etc.) and this would be a key follow up to today's discussions. It would act in an advisory capacity on religious intolerance.
- Need to get religious communities together so that we can talk about these issues.

Funda Dominic (African South Sudanese Canadian Association):

- Wants to believe what Minister Axworthy said but is worried about the fact that the Minister has no mandate to impose sanctions on Sudan.
- Discouraged by activity of Canadian oil companies in Sudan. Need action against these oil companies in order to get them to increase and improve health and education in the region.
- Before anything could be done about slavery there needs to be a cease-fire.