

## ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO MALAYSIA – Add.2

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- **Sedition Act:** In its national report, Malaysia cites significant progress in rolling back certain laws, regulations and practices that had previously limited the full enjoyment of human rights in Malaysia, particularly the freedoms of assembly and expression. In July 2012, Prime Minister Najib stated that Malaysia would repeal the Sedition Act, which critics charge is subject to misuse in silencing peaceful political dissent. Will Malaysia commit to a clear timeline for repealing the Sedition Act, so as to meet fully its international human rights commitments on freedoms of expression and assembly?
- **Verdict's Implication for Religious Freedom:** Malaysia's national report notes the country's march forward, particularly in expanding the space for freedom of expression, including of dissent and of peaceful assembly. However, on October 14, Malaysia's Appeals Court ruled that a newspaper of the Catholic Church could not use the word "Allah" in its Malay language edition, overturning a 2009 High Court verdict. Will the Malaysian government commit to a review of this ruling in line with Article 3 of the Federal Constitution and Malaysia's freedom of expression commitments?
- **Law Enforcement Oversight:** In its national report, Malaysia notes the establishment in April 2011 of the Enforcement Agency Integrity Commission (EAIC) to strengthen oversight of Malaysian law enforcement agencies. However, NGOs have raised serious concerns regarding the high number of individuals killed in police shootings, and deaths of prisoners in custody. Will Malaysia commit to fully investigate alleged unlawful police shootings and deaths of prisoners in custody, and take steps to prevent future incidents as a means of bringing its law enforcement practices in line with the UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement and international human rights commitments?