

SAN MARINO 2013 INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM REPORT

Executive Summary

The constitution and other laws and policies protect religious freedom and, in practice, the government generally respected religious freedom.

There were no reports of societal abuses or discrimination based on religious affiliation, belief, or practice.

During periodic visits to the country, U.S. government officials raised religious freedom with government and civil society leaders and offered them opportunities to participate in programs addressing religious freedom.

Section I. Religious Demography

The U.S. government estimates the population at 32,448 (July 2013 estimate). The government does not provide statistics on the size of religious groups, and there is no census data on religious group membership. Government officials, however, estimate that approximately 97 percent of the population is Roman Catholic. Other religious groups include small numbers of Jehovah's Witnesses, Bahais, Muslims, Jews, Orthodox Christians, and members of the Waldensian Church. In recent years the number of Orthodox Church members has increased significantly due to immigration from Eastern Europe.

Section II. Status of Government Respect for Religious Freedom

Legal/Policy Framework

The constitution and other laws and policies generally protect religious freedom. The country maintains a public "meditation and prayer" site in the capital for use by worshipers of any religion.

There is no state religion and the law prohibits discrimination based on religion. Catholic symbols, however, are common in state institutions. For example, crucifixes sometimes hang on courtroom and government office walls. The state provides payments to the Catholic Church from income tax revenue. Taxpayers may request that 0.3 percent of their income tax payments be allocated to the Catholic Church or to "other charities," including other religious groups. Any charity or religious group can obtain this benefit by registering as a nonprofit

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organization based in the country. If a taxpayer allocates a portion of his or her income tax payment to a previously unregistered group, the tax authorities will contact the group to confirm its legitimacy and to ask to review its financial statements.

There are no private religious schools. Public schools provide Catholic religious instruction. However, students may choose without penalty not to participate.

Government Practices

There were no reports of significant government actions affecting religious freedom.

Section III. Status of Societal Respect for Religious Freedom

There were no reports of societal abuses or discrimination based on religious affiliation, belief, or practice.

Section IV. U.S. Government Policy

During periodic visits, officers from the U.S. Consulate General in Florence discussed religious freedom with government representatives and offered participation in U.S.-sponsored programs involving religious freedom. Consulate officials also discussed religious freedom with civil society representatives, who reported no restrictions on religious freedom or problems involving religious minorities.