

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 351

Expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should condemn the practice of execution by stoning as a gross violation of human rights, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 14, 2002

Ms. MCCOLLUM submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should condemn the practice of execution by stoning as a gross violation of human rights, and for other purposes.

Whereas death by stoning is a punishment formerly imposed in Afghanistan under the Taliban regime, and has been documented as a punishment in Nigeria, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen, according to the Department of State Reports on Human Rights Practices;

Whereas the brutal sentence of death by stoning is applied to women who have been accused of adultery, coerced into prostitution, or even raped;

Whereas execution by stoning is an exceptionally cruel form of punishment that violates internationally accepted

standards of human rights, including those set forth in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;

Whereas women around the world continue to be targeted for discriminatory, inhuman, and cruel punishments by governments who refuse to protect the rights of all of their citizens equally; and

Whereas Safiya Hussaini stands convicted of adultery and has been sentenced to death by stoning in the State of Sokoto, Nigeria, based solely on the evidence that she was divorced and pregnant, despite her claim that she was a victim of rape, and the fact that she has since given birth to the child: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that—

3 (1) the United States should condemn the prac-
4 tice of execution by stoning, and should call upon
5 the international community to recognize this prac-
6 tice as a gross violation of human rights;

7 (2) the President should formally communicate
8 this sense of Congress to governments imposing this
9 cruel punishment; and

10 (3) the President should urge Nigerian Presi-
11 dent Olusegun Obasanjo to immediately suspend the
12 sentence of death by stoning imposed on Safiya
13 Hussaini and take steps to ensure that Nigeria acts

1 in accordance with international human rights
2 standards.

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