

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 26

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 19, 2003

Received and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

Condemning the punishment of execution by stoning as a gross violation of human rights, and for other purposes.

Whereas death by stoning continues to be imposed as a form of punishment in several countries, as documented by the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices of the United States Department of State;

Whereas the brutal sentence of death by stoning is applied to women who have been accused of adultery, some of whom are 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 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political 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 disproportionately targeted for discriminatory, inhuman, and cruel punishments by governments who refuse to protect the rights of all their citizens equally;

Whereas in some places stoning has also been invoked as punishment for “blasphemy”, thereby suppressing religious freedom and diversity and stifling political dissent;

Whereas, in July 2002, Amnesty International referred to execution by stoning as “a method specifically designed to increase the victim’s suffering”;

Whereas, in 2002, the European Union, the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, the Australian Government, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand, the President of Mexico, the Congress of the Deputies of Spain, and other world leaders each condemned stoning and called for clemency for individuals sentenced to stoning; and

Whereas, in 2002 there were acquittals or dismissals of sentences to death by stoning: Now, therefore, be it

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

3            (1) condemns the practice of execution by ston-  
4        ing, and calls upon the international community to

1 recognize this practice as a gross violation of human  
2 rights;

3 (2) requests that the President formally com-  
4 municate this resolution to governments imposing  
5 this cruel punishment and urge the suspension of  
6 sentences of death by stoning; and

7 (3) requests that the President direct the Sec-  
8 retary of State to work with the international com-  
9 munity toward the repeal of stoning laws and adher-  
10 ence to international standards of human rights.

Passed the House of Representatives March 18,  
2003.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

*Clerk.*