

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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 Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;

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

Whereas the brutal sentence of execution by stoning is pronounced in many countries on women who have been accused of adultery, a charge that is brought even against victims of coerced prostitution or rape;

Whereas in some places execution by stoning has 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 Government of Australia, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand, the President of Mexico, the Congress of Deputies of Spain, and other world leaders all condemned execution by stoning and called for clemency for individuals sentenced to stoning; and

Whereas, according to the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices of the Department of State, the sentence of execution by stoning continues to be imposed in several countries: Now, therefore, be it

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

3 (1) condemns the practice of execution by ston-
 4 ing as a gross violation of human rights and appeals
 5 to the international community to end the practice;

6 (2) requests the President formally to commu-
 7 nicate this resolution to governments that permit
 8 this cruel punishment and to urge the termination of
 9 execution by stoning; and

10 (3) requests the President to direct the Sec-
 11 retary of State to work with the international com-
 12 munity to promote adherence to international stand-

- 1 ards of human rights and repeal laws that permit
- 2 execution by stoning.

Passed the Senate May 8, 2003.

Attest:

Secretary.

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 26

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