



Minnesota's 4th District E-Report!

Congresswoman Betty McCollum

"Serving Minnesota's Families"



SEPTEMBER 26, 2003

Hot News!

Nigerian Woman's Death By Stoning Sentence Halted

Rep. Betty McCollum praised the acquittal of Amina Lawal, the Nigerian woman who was sentenced to death by stoning for adultery. Four of five judges on the country's Islamic appeals court voted to throw out the case, citing procedural errors in her trial. In March, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously voted to pass H.Con.Res. 26, the first piece of legislation passed by Rep. McCollum. The resolution condemned the brutal punishment of death by stoning as a gross violation of international human rights.

"Amina's acquittal is a victory for human rights around the world. The watchful eye of the United States and the global community stopped this inhumane act. The practice of death by stoning most frequently targets women in many parts of the world," said McCollum, a member of the Committee on International Relations, Subcommittee on International Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Human Rights.

"The persecution of women and girls because of their gender, as with the stoning sentence of Amina, must be abolished. Promoting and protecting the most basic human rights of women and girls around the world must never be taken for granted."

In addition to Nigeria, stoning remains a punishment imposed in countries such as Iran, Pakistan and Sudan.

"As a free and just society, the U.S. has an obligation to condemn human rights abuses no matter who commits them and no matter where they are committed. The world needs to join in this message with one clear voice," said Rep. McCollum.



Rep. Betty McCollum recognized National History Day with Tim Hoogland of the Minnesota Historical Society. National History Day is an education program with the goal of making history come alive through active student learning and educator professional development. As a former social studies teacher and member of the Education and the Workforce Committee, McCollum is committed to lifelong learning.

Next Week

September 29 - Speak to American Foreign Policy class at Hamline University

September 30 - Meeting with Friends of the Boundary Waters

October 1 - Meeting with Senator Celine Hervieux-Payette of Bedford, Quebec as part of parliamentary exchange

October 3 - Swearing-in ceremony for Minnesota native Donna Bergstrom as Lt. Col. in the Marine Corps

Contact Congresswoman Betty McCollum . . . www.house.gov/mccollum/contact.html

Washington Office: 1029 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC 20515 ♦ phone / (202) 225-6631 ♦ fax / (202) 225-1968

St. Paul Office: 165 Western Ave. N., #17, St. Paul, MN 55102 ♦ phone / (651) 224-9191 ♦ fax / (651) 224-3056