

10/3/03

initiated

Motion for a resolution

With request for inclusion in the debate on topical and urgent subjects of major importance pursuant to Rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure

tabled by Joe McCartin, John Corrie and Bernd Posselt  
on behalf of the EPP-ED Group

35-179/03

**On the case of the Nigerian woman, Amina Lawal, sentenced to death by stoning in Nigeria**

The European Parliament,

a. recalling its Motion for a Resolution adopted by the European Parliament in September 2002, opposing death sentence by stoning passed on Ms. Amina Lawal, for having a child out of wedlock,

b. aware that the death sentence has been appealed and is due for hearing on the 25th March,

c. repeats from its former motion that Nigeria remains one of the few countries in which a person can be sentenced to death for consensual sexual activity,

d. considers that to execute Ms. Amina Lawal for the alleged offences is in breach of the UN Charter on Fundamental Human Rights,

1. Calls on the Upper Sharia Court of Appeal of Katsina to uphold its commitment to all the international agreements that Nigeria has signed up to in the human rights field, and therefore asks that the more extreme elements of Sharia law that contradict international law be appealed;

2. Considers that the current practice and many regulations in the new Sharia penal codes and Sharia codes of criminal procedure violate many international human rights instruments ratified by Nigeria, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

3. Calls on the Nigerian Supreme Court to make a judgment to bring regional legislation into line with international law that Nigeria has signed up to;

4. Calls on the Nigerian government to ensure that the courts operate in accordance with international human rights law and the bill of rights in Nigeria's own constitution;

5. Urges the Nigerian Government to undertake further steps in order that all executions are halted and the use of the death penalty is ended;

6. Expresses its categorical opposition to the death penalty in all circumstances because it represents the ultimate violation of the right to life guaranteed by international law;

7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, Commission and to the Nigerian Government and Parliament.