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May 23, 2007

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki
Embassy of the Republic of Iraq to the United States
1801 P Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Prime Minister Maliki,

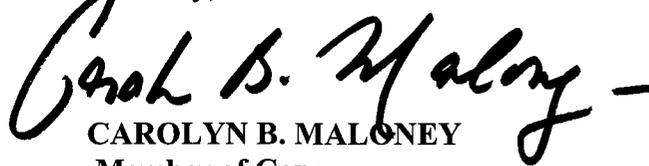
I would like to express my horror over the recent murder of 17 year-old Duaa Khalil Aswad in the town of Bashika in northern Iraq. The shocking video showed a helpless girl being ruthlessly murdered by a group of men who threw stones and cement blocks at her head and body until she died. News reports indicated that the murderers were relatives and that there were security forces in the area who stood by silently.

This type of violence against women cannot be tolerated by any government in the world. The UNAMI Human Rights Report from April 2007 stated that 'honor crimes' such as this have been increasing in Iraq, and that at least forty cases were reported between January and March of 2007. While I understand the great difficulties you face in this time of political and social upheaval, this senseless violence against women needs to be eliminated immediately.

I am concerned about how the Iraqi government intends to protect women from these types of attacks in the future. Although news sources report that four men have been arrested in connection with Duaa's murder, it is unclear whether their possible punishment will deter future 'honor crimes'.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding this serious matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Bethany Sousa on my staff at 5-7944 or via email at bethany.sousa@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,


CAROLYN B. MALONEY
Member of Congress