



NEWS

Geo. W. Crockett, Jr. CONGRESSMAN

13th District
Michigan

1531 Longworth H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2261

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, April 21, 1983

contact: Joan Willoughby
(202) 225-2261

CROCKETT SEEKS CITIZENSHIP FOR NELSON AND WINNIE MANDELA

Washington, D.C. -- Congressman Geo. W. Crockett, Jr. (D-Michigan), who serves on the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, has introduced legislation to grant honorary U.S. citizenship to Nelson and Winnie Mandela, leaders of the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa.

Joined by twelve other Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Crockett introduced H. J. Res. 241, granting honorary citizenship to Nelson Mandela and calling for his release from imprisonment in South Africa. In addition, Congressman Crockett introduced H. J. Res. 240, calling for the release of Winnie Mandela, the wife of Nelson Mandela, from her banishment to the township of Brandfort in South Africa, and granting her honorary U.S. citizenship. The resolutions were referred jointly to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Nelson Mandela is presently serving his 21st year of a life sentence for advocating the abolition of racial apartheid in South Africa. His wife, Winnie Mandela, is beginning the 21st year of her banning in South Africa for her own part in founding the now-banned Black Parents Association in South Africa. Although both Nelson and Winnie Mandela have been effectively cut off from their friends and family, they remain leaders in the struggle for the liberation of South Africa and symbols of the oppression of Blacks and others under the apartheid system in South Africa.

The imprisonment of Nelson Mandela has triggered international outcry, including resolutions passed by the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council, and the call for his release by international organizations and individuals concerned with human rights.

Congressman Crockett, in remarks to the U.S. House of Representatives this afternoon, said:

"The apartheid system in South Africa is the last bastion of colonialism and systematized racism, where the entire government and social structure is built on violence, economic exploitation and deprivation of basic human rights and civil rights. The government of the United States, the Security Council and General Assembly of the United Nations, and virtually every country in the world condemns the government of South Africa for its practice of apartheid....

"The lives of Nelson and Winnie Mandela are a testament to the inhuman brutality of the South African apartheid system, and a symbol of hope to those who seek justice and human rights."