

BETTY McCOLLUM
4TH DISTRICT, MINNESOTA



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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

August 10, 2006

Commissioner Felice D. Gaer
Chair of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom
800 N. Capitol Street, N.W., Suite 790
Washington, DC, D.C. 20002

Dear Commissioner Gaer:

I am writing to respectfully request the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom to highlight and report upon the Hmong graves desecration in Thailand in your Annual Report due to be released in November 2006.

The Hmong graves desecration in Wat Thamkrabok, Thailand, has become a major concern for many of my Hmong constituents whose hundreds of relatives buried in and around the perimeters of Wat Thamkrabok (Buddhist Temple), Saraburi Province, Thailand, were dug up, dismembered and taken away to unknown destination. The gruesome digging of more than 900 Hmong graves in Wat Thamkrabok from November through December 2005 has caused considerable anguish for their living relatives in the United States.

I commend the work of the University of Minnesota Human Rights Program in documenting this issue and support their efforts in bringing this report to your attention as well as the UN Special Rapporteur on Religious Intolerance and Racism. I have attached a copy of the report for your information. I respectfully request you to consider the inclusion of this report in the Annual Report of the U.S. Commission on Religious Freedom.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betty McCollum".

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

BM: CL