



# *Congressman Donald Payne*

## Tenth District - New Jersey

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### **Payne Pleased by Release of Sahrawi Human Rights Defender**

Washington, DC – Congressman Donald M. Payne, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health, released the following statement regarding the release of Sahrawi civil rights activists, Aminatou Haidar:

Today, I am tremendously relieved to hear that after her 32-day hunger strike Western Saharan civil rights activist Aminatou Haidar has safely returned to her family in El Aaiún, Western Sahara. It is unfortunate that Ms. Haidar had to experience so much unnecessary pain and suffering in order to bring about a resolution. As a person who has fought for the fundamental rights of the Sahrawi people, it is regrettable that her rights were infringed upon. Her situation has highlighted the need for strong and clear U.S. support for the ongoing mediation efforts of United Nations Special Envoy Christopher Ross to find a sustainable resolution for the Sahrawi people based on self-determination through a referendum.

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