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**execution is  
a terrorist's tool**

**STOP**

**the cycle of violence**

**10/10/2016** World Day against  
the Death Penalty

## **Why a World Day on the death penalty for terrorism?**

The aim of the World Coalition is to reinforce the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty. Its ultimate objective is to achieve universal abolition of the death penalty. In those countries which still use the death penalty, the World Coalition is working to reduce its use, invoking in particular the observance to international standards. Since the creation of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty in 2002, significant progress towards the universal abolition of the death penalty has been achieved. Numerous states, which maintained the death penalty, have abolished it in practise or have restricted its use.

Every year on World Day, the World Coalition highlights one problematic aspect of the death penalty. On October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty along with abolitionist activists worldwide marked the 14<sup>th</sup> World Day against the Death Penalty by drawing attention to the death penalty for terrorism.

Despite the progressive worldwide abolition of the death penalty, its expansion in some areas, such as terrorism, is a cause for great concern. Over the last ten years, Bangladesh, India, Nigeria, Tunisia and others adopted laws expanding the scope of the death penalty by including acts of terrorism among the offences punishable by death. More recently, Pakistan, Jordan and Chad have resumed executions in the name of the fight against terrorism after years of moratorium.

This report introduces the objectives of the 2016 World Day, the activities implemented to realise it and the impact of this 14<sup>th</sup> World Day against the Death Penalty.

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For more information:

**[www.worldcoalition.org](http://www.worldcoalition.org)**

# [1]

## Main objective: Raising public awareness around the application of the death penalty for terrorism in order to reduce its use

### 1) Institutional resonance of the 2016 World Day

The main objective of the 2016 World Day was to raise public awareness around the use of the death penalty for terrorism to reduce its use. Several intergovernmental and supranational organisations answered the call and reasserted their opposition to the death penalty at the occasion of the World Day, giving to the latter an international resonance. The awareness raising and information spreading activities conducted before the World Day by the World Coalition towards institutional representatives bore results.<sup>1</sup>

The UN General Secretary, [Ban Ki-Moon](#), recalled that “death sentences for terrorism are often handed down after unfair and speedy trials”, insisting on the non-deterrent effect of the death penalty on terrorist crimes. He reasserted the need to “continue our work to abolish the death penalty in all circumstances and places”. Special Rapporteurs [Agnès Callamard](#) (on summary executions), [Juan Méndez](#) (on torture) and [Ben Emmerson](#) (on human rights while countering terrorism) also criticised the re-establishment of the death penalty in certain countries, recalling that the fight against terrorism must be led with due regard to human rights. This is the first time the Rapporteur on torture takes a stand at the occasion of the World Day against the Death Penalty.

[The African Commission on Human and People's Rights](#), through its Working Group on the Death Penalty in Africa, relayed the topic of the 2016 World Day, regretting that some African countries continue to apply the death penalty for terrorism. In its press release, the Working Group called upon the States Parties to declare a moratorium on executions and to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

The [Council of Europe and the European Union](#) published a joint declaration “reaffirm[ing] their strong and unequivocal opposition to capital punishment in all circumstances and for all cases”, calling upon European States to ratify the Protocols of the European Convention on Human Rights aiming at abolishing the death penalty and calling upon Belarus to declare a moratorium on executions. Numerous EU delegations relayed this declaration and took part in or co-organised World Day events.

[Pope Francis](#) tweeted “Punishment should necessarily include hope! #NoDeathPenalty” in nine languages: this tweet (all languages combined) received more than 26,600 “likes” and was shared more than 10,000 times.

#### ► The awareness-raising work undertaken by the World Coalition

- At the 31st session of the **Human Rights Council** of the UN, in March 2016, Aurélie Plaçais met the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism and attended a High Panel on the fight against violent extremism.
- A panel discussion on “The political use of the death penalty to counter terrorism” was organised for the **2016 World Congress against the Death Penalty** in June, in Oslo.
- As soon as July 2016, the World Coalition sent parcels with mobilisation tools to **132** representatives of **international organisations**.
- In October 2016, the World Coalition submitted a **report** on terrorism and the death penalty to the **UN High Commissioner on Human Rights**, after a call for contributions was launched to prepare a report on “the negative effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms”.

### 2) Media coverage of the 2016 World Day

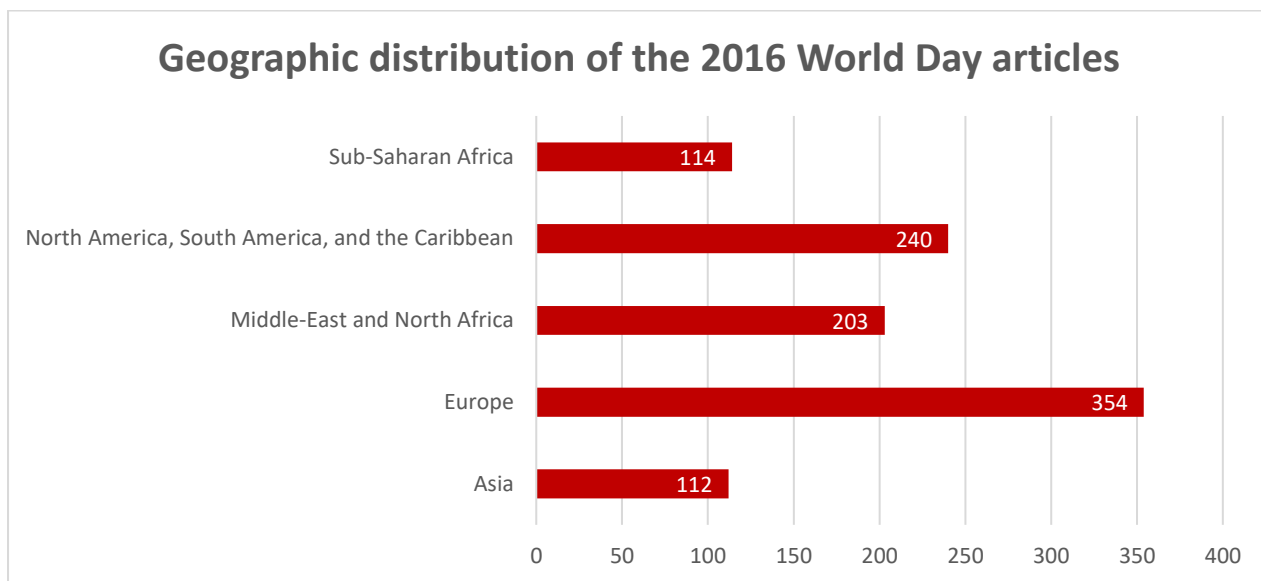
2016 World Day benefited from an unprecedented media coverage in comparison with all previous World Days. Worldwide, **1023** articles in **104** countries mentioning the World Day were compiled. By comparison, 651 articles in 89 countries were recorded in 2015.

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<sup>1</sup> The work of the World Coalition begins as soon as January, with the consultation of its members of the topic to be chosen and with the creation of a Working Group on the World Day.

The UN General Secretary, the Council of Europe and the European Union's declarations as well as Pope Francis' tweet were shared and covered worldwide by the media.

Events organised for the World Day also received good media coverage. Furthermore, the number of events increased this year, with **608** events recorded in **96** countries (431 events in 80 countries the previous year).



The topic, death penalty for terrorism, was well relayed by the media, notably due to the media coverage of Ban-Ki Moon's declaration and of the events organised for the World Day.

On Twitter, many Internet users and organisations used #Nodeathpenalty hashtag. This year, the World Coalition launched a twitter campaign the week before the World Day, twitting every day a piece of information on the death penalty or inviting the readers to join events: the [tweet](#) (in English and French) presenting the interactive map of the death penalty for terrorism was the most seen, with more than 1,500 views.

## **[2]** Supporting abolitionist activists by sharing arguments, tools and information

### **1) Creating and distributing mobilisation tools for the 14<sup>th</sup> World Day**

To foster the widest participation possible to the World Day against the Death Penalty and to strengthen the abolitionist civil society, especially in countries still implementing the death penalty, the World Coalition put together information and mobilisation tool-packs. The tool-packs were tools. Those are made available to members, the media, and anyone who wants to take part in the World Day in order to raise awareness and mobilise people on a local level in as many countries as possible. The tool packs were sent out to all members of the World Coalition and its partners in July 2016. The tool packs were also available on request and could be downloaded from the World Coalition website:

- ▶ [Poster 2016 Wold Day](#)
- ▶ [Leaflet 2016 World Day](#)
- ▶ [Facts and Figures 2016](#)
- ▶ [Detailed Factsheet on Death Penalty and Terrorism](#)
- ▶ [Mobilisation Kit](#)
- ▶ [Factsheet for Parliamentarians](#)
- ▶ [Stories of victims of terrorism](#)
- ▶ [Parliamentarians and the Abolition of the Death Penalty](#)
- ▶ [2015 World Day Report](#)

#### ▶ **Distribution**

**447** recipients received the **4,755 leaflets and 2,623 posters**: 213 parcels were sent to members of the World Coalition and 234 to other partners.

**1,000 leaflets and 300 posters** were also distributed at the World Congress in Oslo, in June 2016.

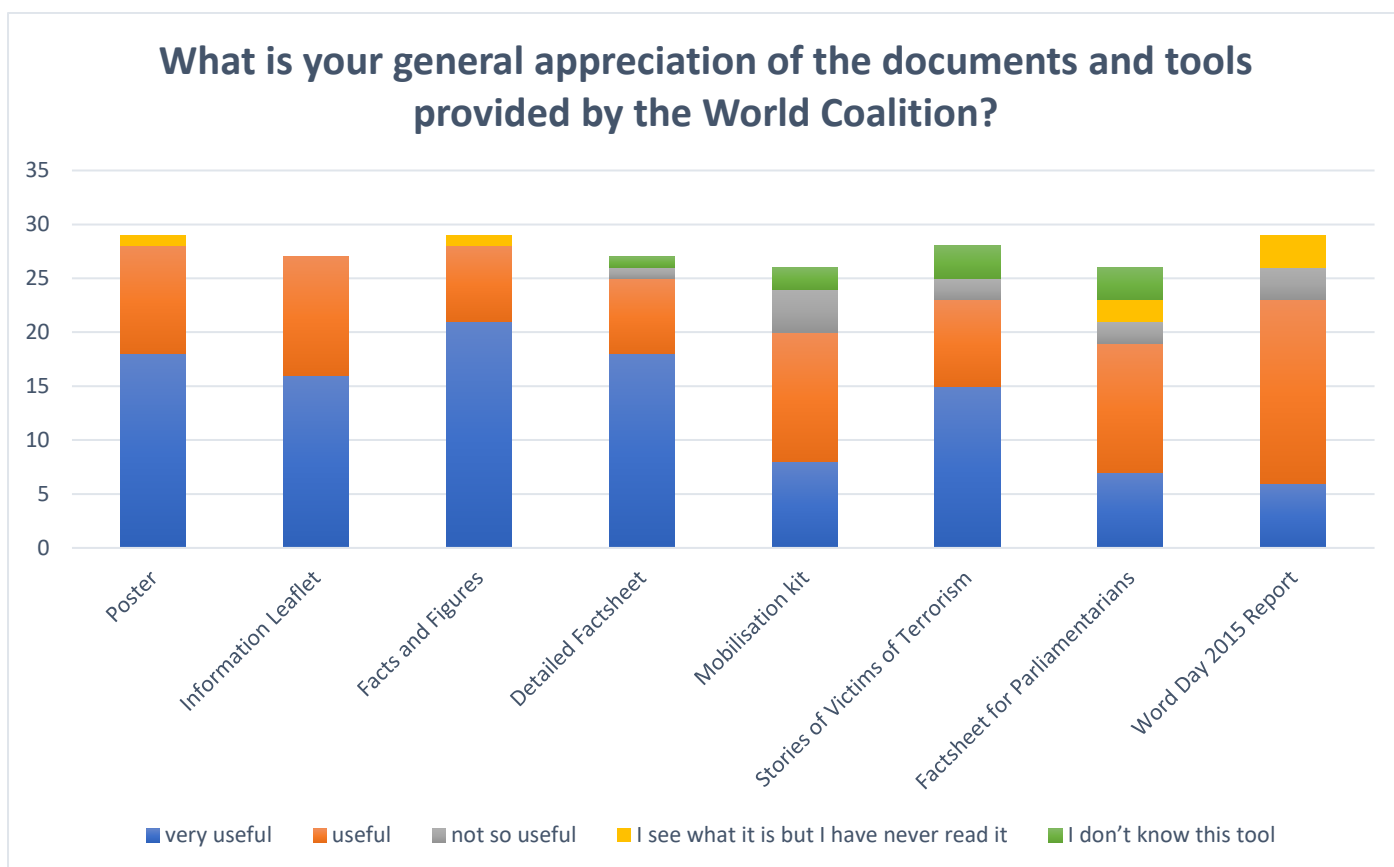
The World Coalition also included the Detailed Factsheet on Death Penalty and Terrorism, the Factsheet for Parliamentarians as well as the Stories of Victims of terrorism in the report on the effects of terrorism on human rights it submitted to the UN High-Commissioner in October.

**2,026** tools available online were downloaded from the World Coalition’s website (2,790 last year). The tool **Facts and Figures** were most downloaded.

A total of **9,904** pages were viewed on the website of the World Coalition between October 6th and 12th 2016 (against 15,731 in 2015) and nearly **5,420 pages** between October 9th and 11th 2016 (against 8,060 pages between October 9th and 11th 2015). On the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2016, **3,028** pages were viewed (against 3,694 on October 10<sup>th</sup> 2015).

Between the publication of the World Day webpage on June 10th 2016 and January 31st 2016, the campaign page was viewed **7,363** times in all languages (against 35,648 times in 2015, between June 10th 2016 and March 31st 2016).

In October 2016, **2,111** internet users, twice as much as usual, viewed the World Coalition’s Twitter page. The Twitter page gained 41 new followers, while the Facebook page was followed by 60 new persons (and now has 5,409 “likes”). Between October 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 2016, 4,056 persons viewed the Facebook publications of the Coalition.



**2) Encouraging the publication of reports and contributions on the death penalty**

For October 10<sup>th</sup>, several reports on the death penalty were released. Some addressed the specific question of the death penalty for terrorism:

- ▶ **2016 World Day against the Death Penalty: Amnesty International**, in its yearly report on the World Day against the Death Penalty, offered an overview of the States that pronounced death sentences or carried out executions for acts of terrorism in 2015, while reasserting that the death penalty has no deterrent effect on terrorists.

- ▶ [The Death Penalty in the OSCE Area: Background Paper 2016](#): **OSCE** updated its executive summary on the death penalty in OSCE countries, focusing on the relation between the death penalty and the ban on torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatments.
- ▶ [Going backwards. The death penalty in Southeast Asia](#): **FIDH** reviewed the executions carried out in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore in 2015 and addressed the death penalty situation in seven other countries in the region, insisting on the worrying situation in Indonesia and the Philippines.
- ▶ [Death Penalty in Belarus: Murder on \(Un\)lawful Grounds](#): the **Human Rights Center "Viasna"** and **FIDH's report** covered the death penalty situation in Belarus, which remains the last European country to authorise death sentences and to carry out executions.
- ▶ [20 Years Against Death Penalty: Facts on Death Penalty in Palestine and PCHR's Position](#): the **Palestinian Center for Human Rights** provided an informative overview of the death penalty situation in Palestine, including recommendations for the decision-makers.

Organisations also published informative videos on the death penalty:

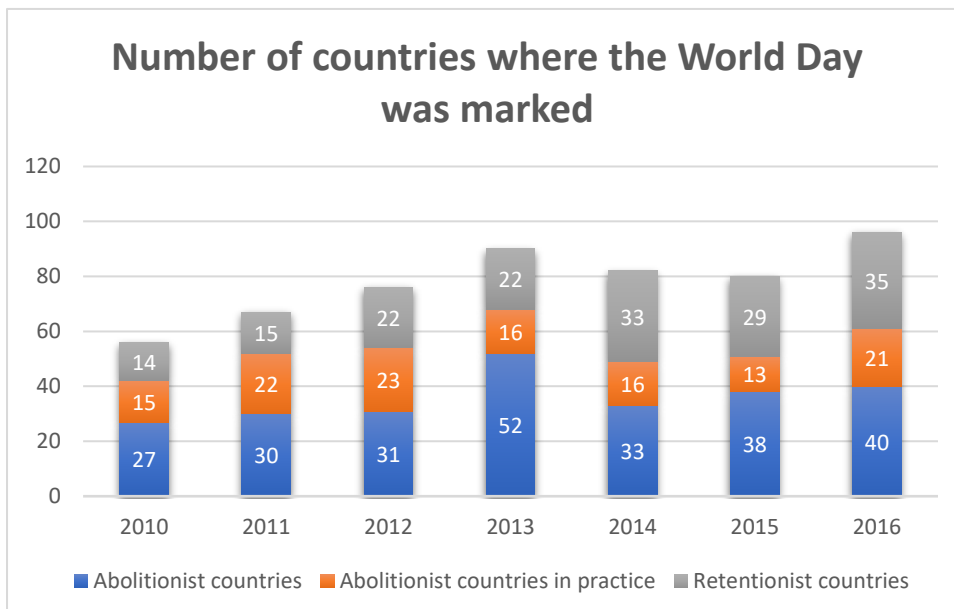
- ▶ [Innocent and Sentenced to Die: Wrongful Incarceration on Nigeria's Death Row](#): the **Legal Defense and Assistance Project (LEDAP)** gave the floor to innocents wrongfully sentenced to death, recalling that no legal system is ever safe from mistakes.
- ▶ [World Day Against the Death Penalty](#): the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies went to the streets and asked Jordanians what they had to say about the death penalty.
- ▶ [World Day Against the Death Penalty 2016](#): individuals explained the reasons why they are against the death penalty, as part of the **Second Chances in Singapore** campaign.
- ▶ [Death Penalty for Terrorism is no Deterrent](#): as explained by Nestor Toko, President of the **Lawyers Network against the Death Penalty in Cameroon (RACOPEM)**, the death penalty has no deterrent effect on terrorists.

**Amnesty International Belgian Group** designed an interactive test (in French) aimed at triggering a reflection on the death penalty

- ▶ [Test peine de mort : qui mérite de mourir ?](#)  
(The death penalty test : who deserves to die ?)

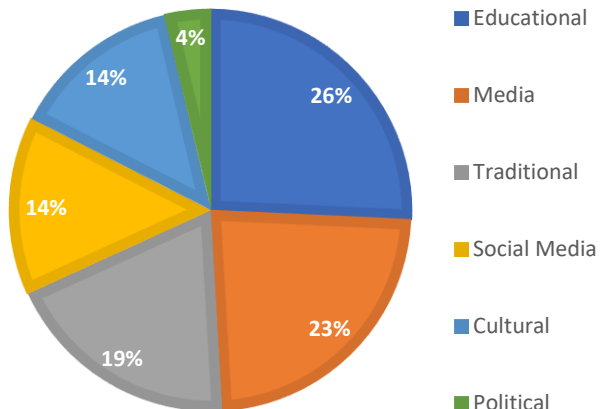
### 3) Encouraging the organisation of local initiatives and strengthening the abolitionist civil society

#### a. Various events in numerous countries



Events have been organised all over the world: the launch of **608 initiatives in 96 countries**, was a record amongst all World Days. On four out of five continents, the number of events increased significantly. If a majority of events were organised around the 10<sup>th</sup> of October, initiatives were launched throughout October, such as the third abolitionist workshop in Asia, which took place from 21 to 23 October 2016 in Taipei (Taiwan).

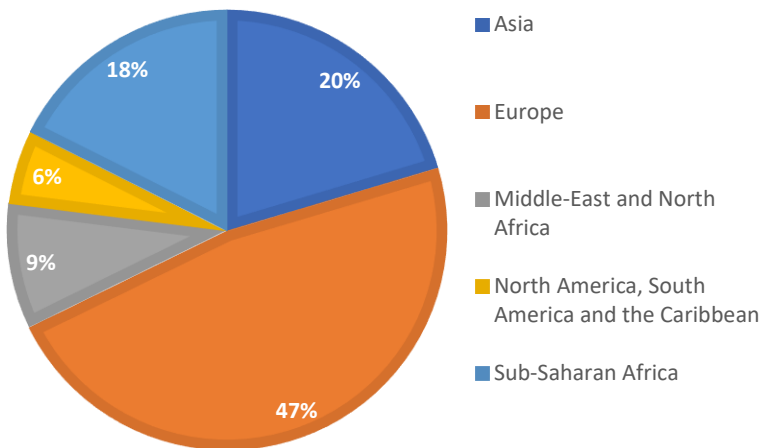
## 2016 World Day Events



Events of a great variety were organised. Events aiming at educational activities (workshops, round tables, publications, educational activities in schools, etc.) and events targeting the media (press releases, press conferences, articles published in the media, radio broadcast) made up half of the initiatives. These were followed by events of a more traditional nature (collection of signatures, distribution of leaflets, letters writing campaigns, sit-in...). Cultural events and online mobilisation represented 14% of the events: international and civil society organisations, and notably the EU delegations and embassies, made an increased use of social media in comparison with last year (in 2015, they only stood for 5% of all public events). Finally, political events (lobbying meetings, government statements, presentation of a draft bill) are in the minority (4%).

### b. Worldwide mobilisation to raise awareness on the death penalty

## Events by region



### ► Africa

For the 2016 World Day against the Death Penalty, **107 events were organised in 30 Sub-Saharan countries**, which represent a very significant increase in comparison with 2015 (60 events were recorded in 20 countries).

Numerous panel discussions were organised, especially in **Niger**, where **SYNAFEN** set up a panel discussion on death penalty and terrorism in each capital city of the seven regions of the country, and in **Benin**, where **ACAT-Benin** and **Amnesty International Benin** organised a conference-debate on the abolition of the death penalty and national security. Awareness-raising workshops were also organised in several countries (**Kenya, Tanzania, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Botswana**),

gathering political and religious leaders, representatives of the media and/or civil society, etc. Furthermore, numerous African organisations published press releases calling for the abolition of capital punishment.

The media coverage in Africa was nevertheless lower than last year: **114 clippings** (149 in 2015).

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, the association **Pax Christi Uvira** organised a conference-debate, followed by comic poetry, on the abolition of the death penalty. Lawyers, judges, students, and other civil society actors exchanged ideas on the application of the death penalty for terrorism and addressed the Congolese situation.

### ► Americas

In North and South America as well as in the Caribbean, **33 events** were organised for the World Day, a decrease compared to the previous year (93 events had been organised). The electoral context and the three referenda on the death penalty in the USA, which caught most of the attention, explains the slowdown. Most of the initiatives took place in the **USA**, but events were also organised in **Trinidad and Tobago, Mexico, Peru, Costa-Rica, Brazil, and Canada**. Conferences and panel discussions were held and letters writing campaigns in favour of prisoners on death row were launched. Several organisations published press releases.



The 2016 World Day media coverage was intense in the Americas, as **240 articles were listed**: institutional communiqués (of the UN General Secretary, of Mexico's National Commission on Human Rights, but also of the EU and Council of Europe), were largely relayed by the press.

In its press release, **Mexico's National Commission on Human Rights** recalled that "no punishment may violate people's lives and dignity", considering the death penalty as a cruel, inhumane, and irreversible punishment, and called to continue the fight for universal abolition.

#### ► **Asia**

**124 initiatives were launched for the 2016 World Day on the Asian continent**, representing a **sharp increase** compared to the 70 events organised in 2015. Events took place in **24 countries** (16 countries last year). The media coverage remained stable, with **112 articles counted**, confirming the increase observed last year (109 in 2015, 74 in 2014).

The topic of the 2016 World Day was particularly relevant for the South-East Asian retentionist countries, which all retain the death penalty for terrorism related crimes. A **FIDH** report, published for the 2016 World Day, underlined that the fight for the abolition of the death penalty recently underwent serious setbacks in the region.

Numerous film screenings were organised: as part of the "Killing film" festival in **Taiwan**, 40 screenings took place; other were organised in **Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Singapore**. In **Malaysia and Thailand**, theatre plays raised public awareness on the abolition of the death penalty. In **Pakistan**, the national Commission on Human Rights organised two demonstrations, in Lahore and Hyderabad, in order to call for the abolition of the death penalty in the country.

**Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty** and **Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network** organised the third abolitionist workshop in Asia from October 21<sup>st</sup> to October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016, in **Taipei**. Targeting the young activists, the workshop gathered 40 participants and was the occasion to share good practices (on the use of social networks, on the work with the youth, international campaigns, etc.) and knowledge on the death penalty situation in the countries of the region.

#### ► **Europe**

There was a record number of organised events in Europe, with **288 initiatives counted** (189 in 2015) in **23 countries** (21 in 2015).

**Viasna** organised a week against the death penalty in **Belarus**, the sole State in Europe retaining the death penalty. This year, a special edition on the death penalty was distributed in several cities, a report on the use of capital punishment in Belarus was released (in cooperation with the FIDH), a "rock for life" concert was organised in Minsk, etc. In **Italy, Germany, France, Belgium, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom**, many Amnesty groups gathered signatures for petitions in favour of prisoners on death row in Japan, the USA, and Saudi Arabia. The Community of Sant'Egidio organised several conferences in **Italian prisons**, in the presence of Tamara Chikunova, Uzbek anti-death penalty activist. In **London**, an exhibition displaying paintings of US-prisoners on death row opened to the public. In **Paris**, several organisations joined to organise an action day including information stalls, a theatre play and a debate.

#### ► **Middle-East and North Africa**

**56** events were organised across **12 countries** in the Middle East and North Africa, whereas 26 events had been organised in 10 countries last year. This increase is very much welcomed and timely, as numerous MENA countries recently expanded the scope of the death penalty, adding certain terrorist crimes to the list of infractions punishable by death.

Many media initiatives were recorded, inter alia in **Bahrein, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt**: press releases, publication of articles or videos, social media campaigns, etc. In **Tunisia**, film screenings were organised. Debates and public conferences took place in **Algeria, Morocco, Lebanon, and Tunisia**.

The media coverage was upgraded in comparison with 2015: **203 articles** were recorded, against 51 last year.

A sit-in was organised by the **Human Rights and Democracy Media Center** in front of the Parliament in **Ramallah** in order to celebrate the World Day and to call for the abolition of the death penalty in **Palestine**.

### [3] Targeting the parliamentarians facing the reintroduction of the death penalty for terrorism by law

One of the objectives of the World Coalition for 2016 World Day was to target the parliamentarians while underlining their crucial role in the process of the abolition of the death penalty.

#### 1) Creating and distributing a pitch addressed to parliamentarians

The World Coalition, which collaborated with **Parliamentarians for Global Action** (PGA), developed a Factsheet for parliamentarians. This tool aims at helping parliamentarians to understand the importance not to succumb to the political convenience of the death penalty for terrorism and to help civil society to better collaborate with parliamentarians. The internal evaluation on the World Day revealed that 73% of the respondents assessed this tool as useful or very useful.

The Coalition also distributed the manual “Parliamentarians and the abolition of the death penalty”. This manual includes key arguments in favour of the abolition and a series of case studies.

- ▶ [Factsheet for Parliamentarians](#)
- ▶ [Parliamentarians and the abolition of the death penalty](#)

On October 20<sup>th</sup> 2016, an event was organised in cooperation with PGA and the permanent missions of Australia, Norway, and Palau to the United Nations, at the UN headquarters in New York, in order to launch the Factsheet for Parliamentarians. Representatives of Palau, Australia, Norway, and the UN Special Rapporteur on arbitrary executions as well as representatives of PGA and the French Association for Victims of Terrorism (AFTV) attended the event.

#### ▶ Middle-term results: tools distributed beyond the World Day

In December 2016, the Philippine Human Rights Commission solicited the World Coalition. On their request 25 paper copies and 25 digital copies of the manual “Parliamentarians and the abolition of the death penalty” were sent, so as to contribute to a campaign aiming at preventing the re-establishment of the death penalty in the country.

#### 2) Encouraging the parliamentarians to organise events with members of the abolitionist civil society for the World Day

In order to raise awareness among parliamentarians about the abolition of the death penalty and to engage them for the abolitionist cause, the World Coalition encouraged the organisation of events gathering members of the civil society and parliamentarians. Several such events were organised throughout the world, including the following:

- ▶ Amnesty International **Australia** held a meeting with parliamentarians to keep them informed of the worldwide situation of the death penalty, and organised a candlelight vigil with the newly created Parliamentary Group against the Death Penalty.
- ▶ In the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, the association “Culture pour la Paix et la Justice” organised a workshop on the strategies to abolish the death penalty, inviting the spokesperson of the Parliamentarian network against the death penalty to testify to the role of the Parliamentarians in the abolition of the death penalty.
- ▶ In **Japan**, the Community of Sant’Egidio organised a conference in the parliament addressing the topic of human rights within the Japanese justice system.
- ▶ In the **UK**, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office organised, in cooperation with the All Party Parliamentary Group for the abolition of the Death Penalty and the Australian High Commission, a panel discussion on the abolition of the death penalty.

## [4] Working with new allies active on the topic of terrorism

Another secondary objective of the World Day was to collaborate with new partners working on terrorism; The World Coalition thus worked together with the **French Association for Victims of Terrorism**.

### 1) Working together on a two page-pitch explaining why some victims of terrorism are against the death penalty

In cooperation with the French Association for Victims of Terrorism (AfVT), the World Coalition developed a pitch explaining why some victims of terrorism are against the death penalty. This pitch is also a way to invite other victims of terrorism around the world to join the AfVT or the international federation.

#### ▶ [Stories of victims of terrorism](#)

In order to prepare this tool, the World Coalition met:

- Five AfVT members in June 2016.
- Participants to the “butterfly project”<sup>2</sup> from Algeria, Morocco, Lebanon, Russia, Colombia, and Italy / Romania in July 2016 so as to add testimonies to the pitch.

#### ▶ **Diffusion**

This document received positive feedbacks by the members of the World Coalition: 83% of the respondents to the World Day evaluation found it useful or very useful. It was downloaded 55 times (both English and French version) from the Coalition’s website.

### 2) Encouraging the members of the World Coalition to organise events with testimonies of victims of terrorism

Several events presenting testimonies of victims of terrorism were organised for the 2016 World Day. The World Coalition also helped to distribute tools created by the AfVT.

- ▶ In Paris, on **October 8<sup>th</sup> 2016**, eleven associations, including many members of the World Coalition (Amnesty International, French Collective “Free Mumia”, ECPM, FIACAT, FIDH, etc.) organised an action day to “continue to say no” to the death penalty. On this occasion, Sébastien Novela, victim of terrorism and member of the French Association for Victims of Terrorism, as well as Georges Salines, President of the association “13 novembre : fraternité et vérité”, which gathers victims of terror attacks, attended the event and testified.
- ▶ At the invitation of PGA and with the financial support of the World Coalition, Yohanna Brette, victim of the UTA Flight 777 terror attack (in 1989) and representative of the AfVT, took part in the launch of the factsheet for parliamentarians **on October 20<sup>th</sup> at the UN headquarters in New York**. On this occasion, she made the voice(s) of victims heard, and explained the activities conducted by the AfVT. She insisted on the “duty of every government to bring answers to victims via legal means, in the respect of human rights”, recalling that the voice of victims may not be used without their consent and stating that the death penalty is not, for the AfVT, an adequate answer.

“If I do not accept that a terrorist kills me, I do not accept either to kill a terrorist”, 22-year-old Khatchig Ghosn, victim of an explosion in Beirut, testifies. An [interview](#) released on the World Coalition’s website in October 2016.

<sup>2</sup> The “butterfly project” was launched by the AfVT and aims at offering to young victims of terrorism a platform to talk about their traumas.

## [5] ANNEXES

- **Annexes to the 2016 Report on the 14<sup>th</sup> World Day against the Death Penalty**
  - 1) List of 608 initiatives recorded in 96 countries
  - 2) Press coverage: 1023 articles in 104 countries
- **List and contact information of the 147 member organisations of the World Coalition in 58 countries:**  
<http://www.worldcoalition.org/Member-organizations.html>



### **World Coalition Against the Death Penalty**

69 rue Michelet  
93100 Montreuil, France

**Email:** [contact@worldcoalition.org](mailto:contact@worldcoalition.org)

#### ► **World Coalition Against the Death Penalty**

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, an alliance of more than 150 NGOs, bar associations, local authorities and unions, was created in Rome on May 13<sup>th</sup> 2002. It was founded as a result of the commitment made by the signatories of the Final Declaration of the 1st World Congress against the Death Penalty organised by the French NGO Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) in June 2001 in Strasbourg.

The aim of the World Coalition is to strengthen the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty. Its ultimate objective is to obtain the universal abolition of the death penalty. To achieve its goal, the World Coalition advocates for a definitive end to death sentences and executions in those countries where the death penalty is in force. In some countries, it seeks to obtain a reduction in the use of capital punishment as a first step towards abolition.

Since 2003, the Coalition established October 10<sup>th</sup> as the World Day against the Death Penalty.

For more information:

**[www.worldcoalition.org](http://www.worldcoalition.org)**