

ACTIVITY REPORT
2015



**WORLD
COALITION**
—AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY—

www.worldcoalition.org

INTRODUCTION BY THE PRESIDENT

As long as governments kill people who have already been rendered helpless by those same governments, there will always be bad news in the global struggle for abolition of the death penalty. It is always against this background that we find our good news, achieve our successes, redouble our efforts and renew our commitment to this human rights campaign.

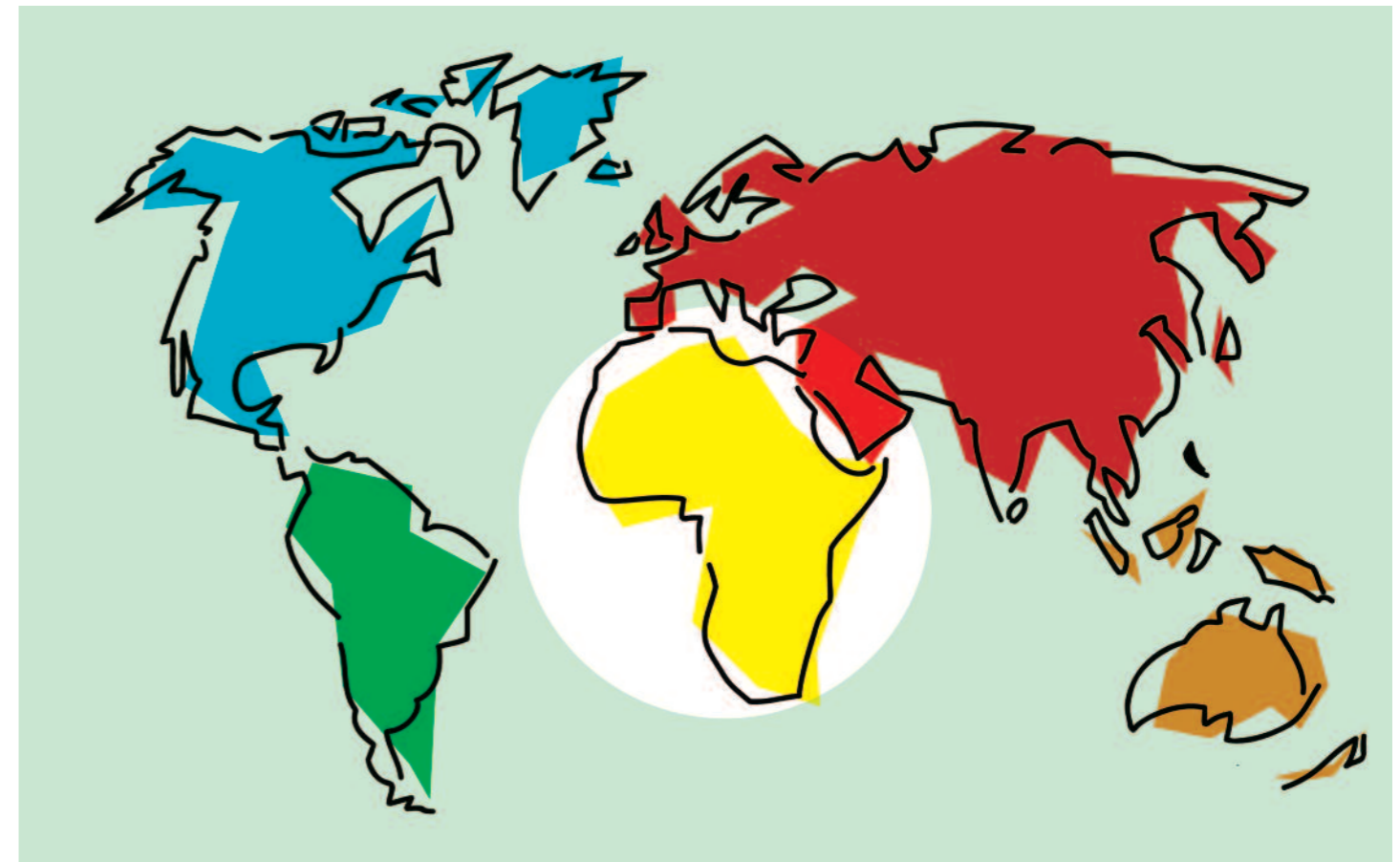
Executions worldwide increased dramatically in number in 2015, due principally to sharp increases in Pakistan, Iran and Saudi Arabia. At the same time, this Activity Report for 2015 also reflects real progress toward abolition in the Americas and sub-Saharan Africa. The steady, consistent work of educating and encouraging accession to regional and international instruments to end the death penalty, is an incremental strategy that continues to bear fruit.

Our focus in 2015 on the death penalty for drug offenses touched a subject area of explosive importance. In Asia and the MENA region particularly, we see misguided efforts to control the drug trade lead to wholesale execution of already marginalized people, with well-intentioned but often counter-productive material support from other states. The interconnectedness of criminal law, global (if illicit) trade and international economic and political policies and diplomacy, highlight the importance of treating the death penalty as global issue as this activity report reflects.

In 2015, we continued to add to our tool kit, developing both materials and expertise to educate and support our members, and link them in a network of global action which includes educating, organizing and acting within their regions and within our international NGO.



Elizabeth Zitrin



SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

In 2015, Africa saw some positive developments on the death penalty despite the resumption of executions by Chad

The Republic of the Congo abolished the death penalty in its new Constitution which was promulgated on 8 November 2015

The Parliament in Togo has authorised the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR in July 2015

Ivory Coast promulgated a new Penal Code with no reference to the death penalty

The African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) adopted a regional

protocol on the abolition of the death penalty in April 2015

For World Day, 60 events were organised in 20 countries

ICJ Kenya became a member of the World Coalition. There are now 24 member organisations from 14 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa

Throughout the year the World Coalition collaborated with the African Commission for Human and People's Rights.

During the 56th Ordinary session of the African Commission in April 2015, a side event on the death penalty was organized by the Working group on the death penalty, the WCADP, FIACAT and FIDH.

Paul Angaman of FIACAT represented the World Coalition in the panel. The panel focused on the situation of the death penalty in Africa and on the importance of a regional protocol on abolition of the death penalty. The ACHPR adopted the protocol on the abolition of the death penalty during the session.

The Advocates For Human Rights, the World Coalition, FIDH and FIACAT also contributed to the discussion of the Working group on the abolition of the death penalty of the ACHPR in preparation for a General Comment on Article 4 (the right to life) of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' rights in August 2015.

The ratification campaign for international and regional protocols on the abolition of the death penalty targeted more specifically **Sub-Saharan Africa** in 2015 with five target countries: **Angola, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Sierra Leone and Togo**.

Two missions on the ground were to take place between April and August 2015 in Angola and Madagascar, however, the mission to **Angola** was cancelled due to visa issues, but the World Coalition received a letter from a member of the Parliament of Angola explaining the ratification process. A mission to **Madagascar** was postponed due to elections. These two countries have already signed the Protocol, but have not ratified it yet.

In cooperation with its member organisation PGA, the World Coalition also created two briefs for parliamentarians in **Togo** and **Ivory Coast** to encourage them to vote in favour of the ratification of the Protocol, which the Parliament of Togo did in July.

The World Coalition submitted a report to the Human Rights Committee on **Benin** in the framework of the ratification campaign. The Committee commended Benin for the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR and encouraged Benin to adopt the draft Penal Code abolishing the death penalty.

Throughout the year, the World Coalition collaborated with its members to submit reports to the Human Rights Council for the Universal Periodic Review. The report on **Mauritania** was coordinated by the Advocates for Human Rights and co-submitted by the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty. The Advocates and the World Coalition also conducted lobbying in Geneva prior to the UPR session in March 2015.

For **World Day Against the Death Penalty**, World Coalition member organisations organised **60 events in 20 countries**, which is less than in 2014 (87 events in 22 countries), but similar to 2013 (60 events in 16 countries). This could be explained by the focus on drug-related offenses which was not very relevant in Africa.

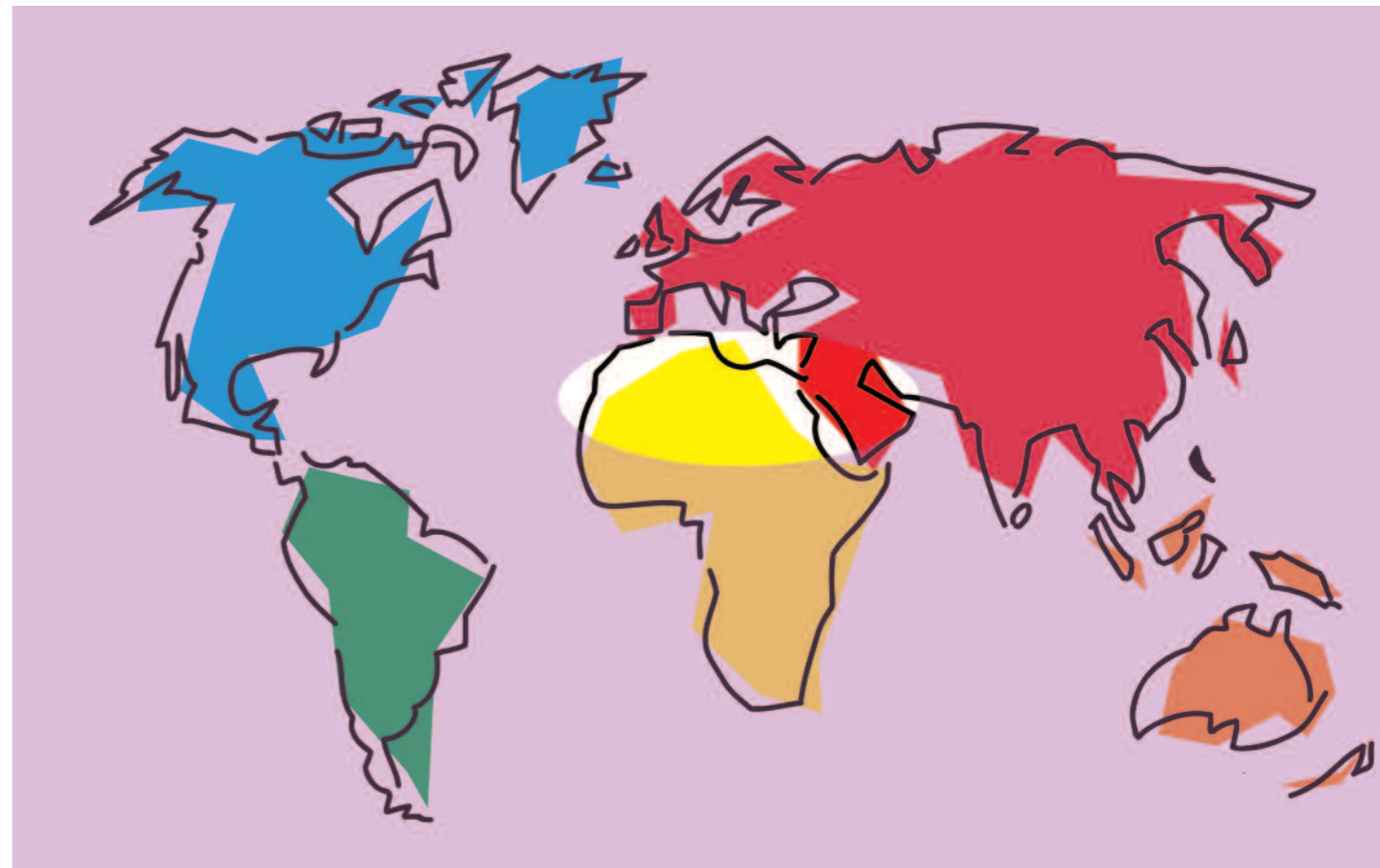
The Legal Defence and Assistance Project in **Nigeria** released a report saying that over 16,500 Nigerians are in prisons

abroad and nearly 350 of them are facing death penalty. 295 of them are on death row in Asia, most of them for drug offenses.

The report recalled the four Nigerians executed in Indonesia (Sylvester Obiekwe Nwolise, Jamiu Owolabi Abashin, Okwudili Oyatanze and Martin Anderson) in April 2015. It also stressed that *"most of the Nigerians convicted abroad did not receive fair trials because most of them did not have lawyers to defend them. The trials are held in languages they do not understand. In most cases, no interpreters are provided, and more importantly, consular services are lacking"*.

In **Malawi**, an event was organised by the University of Malawi and the EU delegation about the moratorium in the country and the Kafantayeni Sentence Rehearing Project for the 170 prisoners under mandatory death sentence which was ruled unconstitutional in 2007.

In most of the other countries, events focused on education, media work or petition-signing. This is consistent with the press review of **149 cuttings from 21 countries**, representing one-fourth of all press mentions recorded worldwide.



MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

In 2015, the overall situation of the death penalty further deteriorated in the region

At least 538 death sentences were pronounced in Egypt

The number of executions, including for drug-related offenses, continued to increase in Iran, reaching almost 1,000 executions

Saudi Arabia executed at least 158 people, the highest number since 1995

26 events were organised in 10 countries for World Day

The World Coalition has now 24 member organisations from 8 countries in the Middle East and North Africa

Given the high numbers of death sentences and executions, one of the strategies adopted in the region was to reduce the scope of the death penalty by focusing on abolition of the death penalty for drug-related offenses.

For World Day, World Coalition member organisations organised **26 events in 10 countries** (compared to 29 events in 7 countries in 2014 and 19 events in 7 countries in 2013) and **51 press cuts in 12 countries** were counted. Most of the activities organised focused on information-sharing. Iran Human Rights published

infographics and a report on executions for drug-related charges in Iran since 2011. Repreive published a report called *Justice Crucified: The Death Penalty in Saudi Arabia*, which focuses on 62 cases and UK relations with **Saudi Arabia**. It echoes Amnesty International's report published in August 2015.

In **Lebanon**, World Coalition members organised a panel discussion on the death penalty and terrorism. Finally some activists launched an online campaign to stop the death penalty in **Egypt** via Twitter: #StopEgyEx.

The World Coalition also continued to work with its members on the issue of UNODC funds for programs in countries where there is still the death penalty for drug-related

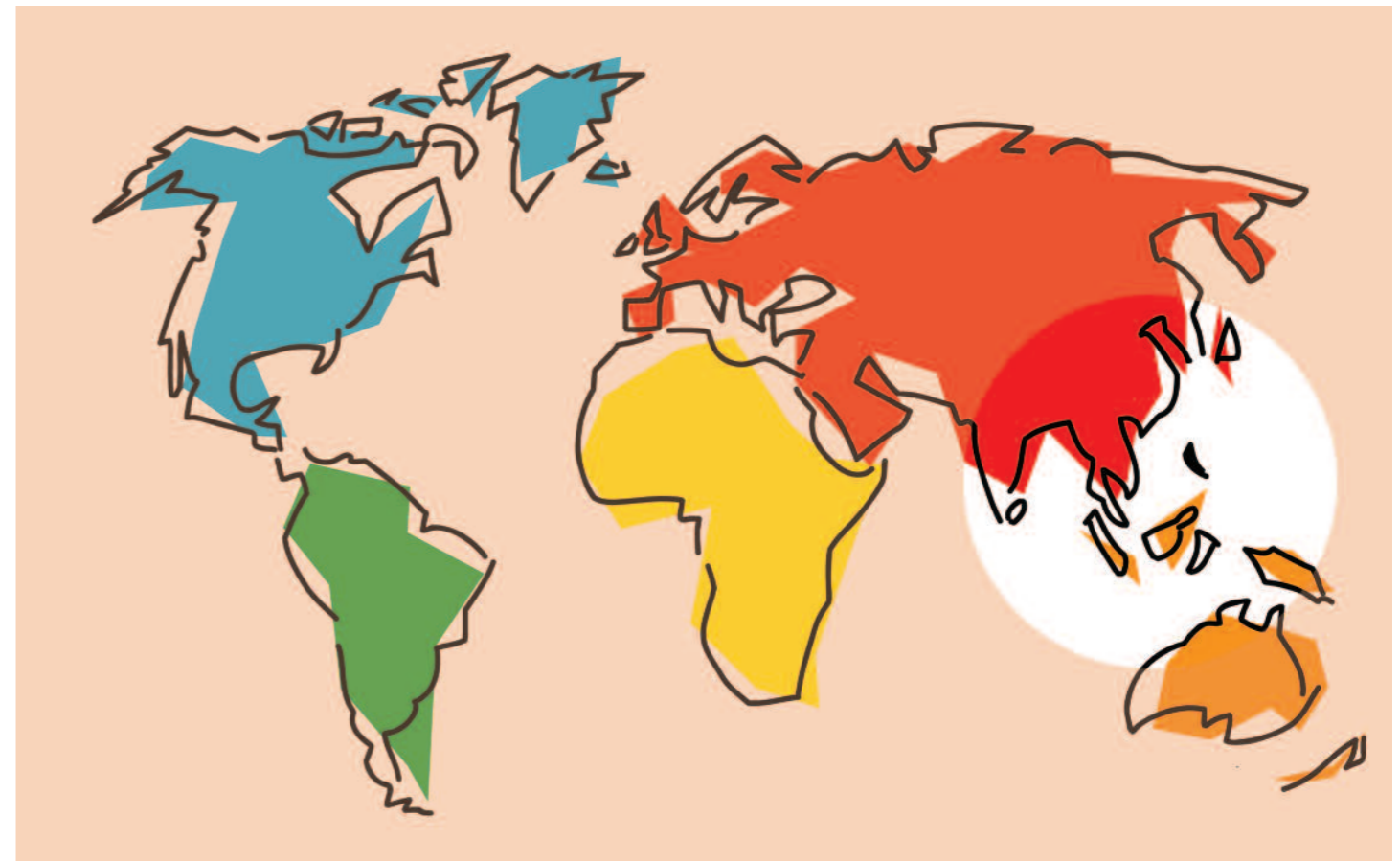
crimes. A special focus of World Day was to contact European donors to UNODC.

Despite difficulties, a very active civil society pushed the World Coalition to advocate for the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR in an Arabic country, **Morocco**.

The Moroccan Coalition Against the Death Penalty and ECPM organised a mission in Morocco, which was very rich and effective. The delegation met with representatives from the Parliament, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Human Rights Institution (CNDH) and the DIDH, the governmental human rights body. A breakfast briefing with European embassies was also organised, together with a training session

for local NGOs on the death penalty and international human rights standards. The main obstacle to the ratification seems to come from the Minister of Justice and the main party within the Parliament, a moderate Islamic party. They believe ratification can only happen after abolition in law, which is not likely to happen under their rule.

Throughout the year the World Coalition collaborated with its members to submit a report to the Human Rights Council for the Universal Periodic Review of Lebanon. The report on **Lebanon** was coordinated by the Advocates for Human Rights and co-signed by the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty.



ASIA - PACIFIC

In 2015 the situation of the death penalty in Asia-Pacific displayed sharp contrasts

Mongolia abolished the death penalty in law in December 2015

Fiji abolished the death penalty for all crimes through amendment to military law in March

China and Vietnam reduced the number of crimes punishable by death in their legislation

The Law Commission of India called for abolition, except for terrorism

Australia started an inquiry into its efforts to advocate for worldwide abolition of the death penalty

Executions in Pakistan killed 326 people

Indonesia resumed executions, all for drug-related offenses

70 events were organised in 16 Asian countries for World Day

There are now 15 member organisations from 11 countries in Asia

Asia was the focus of many abolitionists worldwide and the 2015 World Day was particularly relevant in light of events in the region.

Following the executions for drug offenses in **Indonesia** in January 2015, member organisation KontraS, asked the World Coalition to co-sign their letter. They sent it to the media, authorities, and embassies. The other signatories for this letter were Amnesty International, CONECTAS (**Brazil**), The Centre for Civil and Political Rights, Community of Sant'Egidio (**Rome, Italy**), INSEC (**Nepal**), Neglected and insecure citizens empowerment (**Pakistan**), Indigenous Perspective (**India**), aboriginal rights coalition Australia.

Ahead of World Day, **Asia** was also the focus of the 2nd Regional Congress against the death penalty organized by ECPM in partnership with ADPAN in Kuala Lumpur, **Malaysia** in June 2015.

The death penalty for drugs was a central point during the regional congress. Several side events were organized in parallel with the congress, including one on **Iran** and one on advocacy strategies on the death penalty for drugs and UNGASS. On the side of the Congress, the World Coalition attended a meeting of ADPAN and a meeting at the Malaysian parliament. In the aftermath of the conference the World Coalition held a meeting of its General Assembly during which a new Steering Committee and a new Executive Board were elected for two years.

For World Day, World Coalition members organised **70 events in 16 countries**, down from 89 events in 17 countries in 2014. However, 109 press mentions were recorded in 17 countries, a significant increase from the 74 press cuts counted in 2014.

The World Coalition implemented two actions for its members based in Asia. First, Asian members of the World Coalition were encouraged to meet with civil society working on drug policy reforms in their countries. To do so, the World Coalition prepared a Q&A on the death penalty and drug offences in partnership with Harm Reduction International and the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC). IDPC and the World Coalition then contacted their member organisations and put them in contact with one another for World Day.

Similarly, the World Coalition partnered with FIDH to launch a report on the death penalty for drugs in Asia. Members from **China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore** and **Taiwan** answered the call of the World Coalition and contributed to the report.

Mobilisation in **Indonesia** was particularly important for World Day with the publication of the report *“Flawed Justice. Unfair Trials and the Death Penalty in Indonesia”* by Amnesty International.

Indonesian NGOs used this opportunity to organise workshops with lawyers, briefing with diplomats, petition signing campaigns and media work.

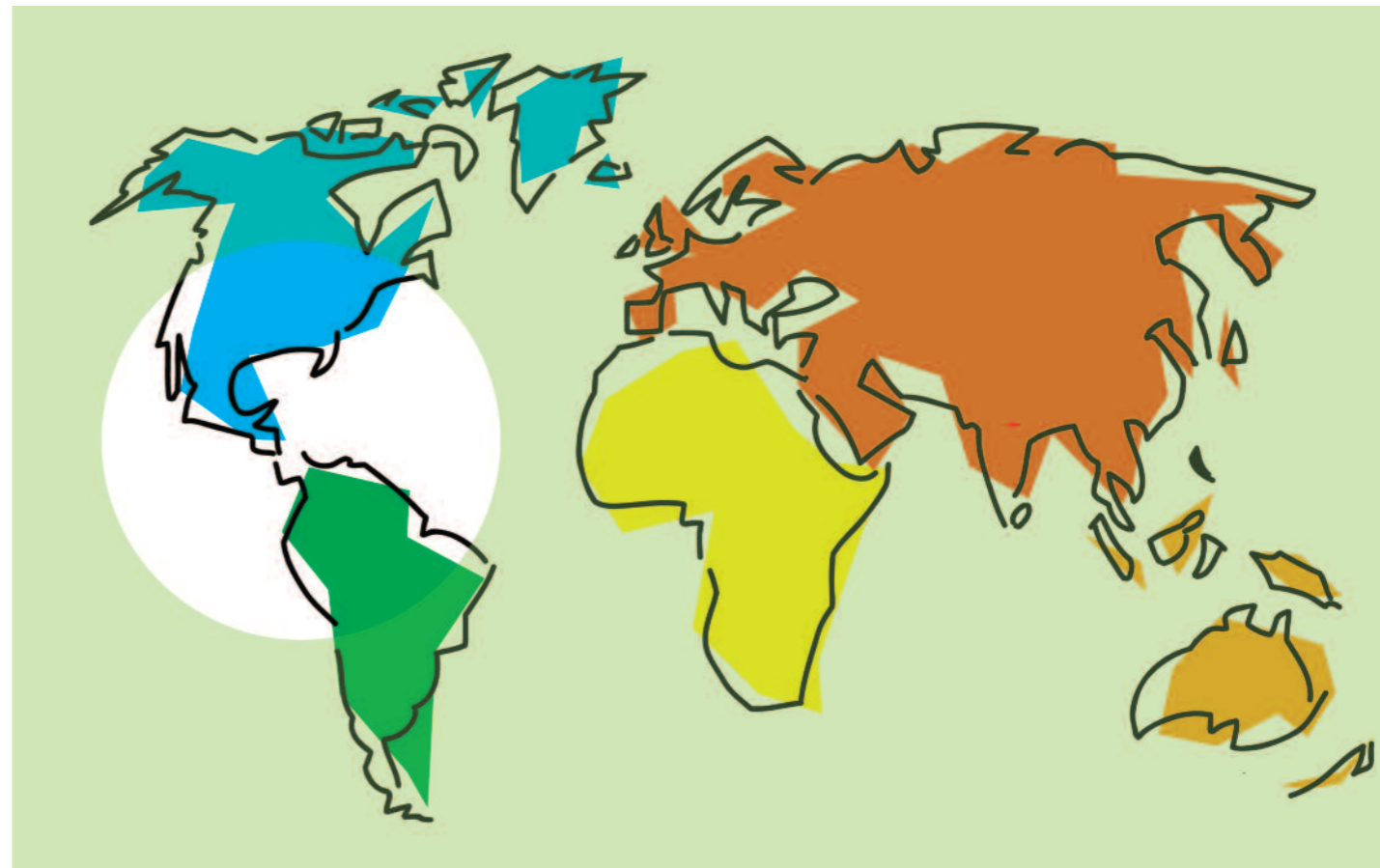
Malaysia was again the venue for an international conference in October 2015. *“The death penalty for drugs must go, it has no place in a civilised society”* said Anand Grover, former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health, during the opening ceremony of Harm Reduction International’s 24th conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. One of the first major sessions was dedicated to death penalty lawyers and human rights advocates in Asia who participated in Harm Reduction International’s report: *Death Penalty for Drug Offenses, Global Overview 2015*.

In the context of the ratification campaign, the World Coalition organised a mission to **Cambodia** with Anne Souleliac from the Paris Bar Association. The country’s attitude towards the respect for human rights is getting worse. The ratification of the UN Protocol is not on the political agenda, neither on the short, nor on the long term. The

organisations we met during the mission are very pessimistic about it. In 2012, there was a real momentum that could have given hope for the ratification, in 2015, our arguments seemed to have had little impact. The World Coalition has also submitted a report to the Human Rights Committee on Cambodia in the framework of the ratification campaign.

Throughout the year the World Coalition collaborated with its members in order to submit a report to the Human Rights Council for the Universal Periodic Review of **Myanmar**. The report was coordinated by FIDH and co-signed by the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

The World Coalition was contacted by its **Australian** member, Victoria Criminal Justice Coalition to contribute to the Australian’s Parliamentary Inquiry into Australia’s Advocacy for the Abolition of the Death Penalty. The World Coalition’s submission, which was presented by the Victoria Criminal Justice Coalition in November at the Parliament, emphasised Australia’s unique geographic position which places it in a critical situation for the abolition of the death penalty in the Asian-Pacific region. It suggested that the Australian Government should give further consideration to joining the “Friends of the Protocol”, a group of countries which officially support the campaign for the ratification of the UN Protocol for the abolition of the death penalty.



AMERICAS

In 2015 the situation of the death penalty moved further towards full abolition in the region

Suriname abolished the death penalty in March 2015

The USA had the lowest number of executions since 1991 with 25 people executed

The governor of Pennsylvania established a moratorium on executions and the legislature of Nebraska voted to abolish the death penalty

93 events were organized in 13 countries for World Day on the American continent

There are now 21 member organisations in 6 countries on the American continent

8 June 2015 was the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights to Abolish the Death Penalty. Several civil society organizations, including the World Coalition and the Greater Caribbean For Life, requested the Organization of American States to address the issue of the death penalty in its 45th Regular Session of the General Assembly in June 2015.

In March 2015, the Greater Caribbean for Life (GCL) addressed the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on issues relating to the death penalty in the Greater Caribbean, during a dedicated thematic hearing held at the Organisation of American States headquarters in Washington, D.C., USA. GCL shared information about

its work and highlighted the main human rights challenges linked to the continued presence of capital punishment in the legal systems of thirteen countries of the Greater Caribbean Region.

Steps forward were taken on the ratification campaign. The situation in the Dominican Republic is positive, as concrete steps have been taken towards ratification, in contrast to the first mission that the World Coalition organised in 2011. The ratification was approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the constitutional court and the Senate. It is now going through the different stages of approval in the lower chamber of Parliament. After that the President will have to sign the ratification. These missing steps will probably not take very long to complete.

The World Coalition submitted a report to the Human Rights Committee recommending the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol by **Suriname**.

The World Coalition also collaborated with its members on a report to the Human Rights Council for the Universal Periodic Review of **St. Lucia** and **St. Kitts and Nevis**, which was submitted in partnership with the Greater Caribbean for Life and the Advocates for Human Rights.

For World Day, World Coalition member organisations organised **93 events in 13 countries** (compared to 86 events in 18 countries in 2014 and 52 events in 9 countries in 2013). Never before had there been so many events organised in the region, continuing the pattern of growth of the 2013 World Day Against the Death Penalty dedicated to the Caribbean.

Events in the USA focused on showing the human face of the death penalty with the release of three powerful documentaries: *“There Will Be No Stay”*, *“Last Day of Freedom”* and *“Bloodworth: an Innocent Man”*. Journey of Hope...from Violence to Healing celebrated the 13th World Day Against the Death Penalty with a two-day conference at the Southern Methodist University (SMU) of Dallas, focused on *“rejecting the philosophy of revenge that supporters of the death penalty promote”*. A Journey Speakers Tour followed the conference throughout the State of Texas, at high

schools, colleges and churches in Houston, San Antonio and Austin, where its member joined forces with other abolitionists for 16th Annual March to Abolish the Death Penalty.

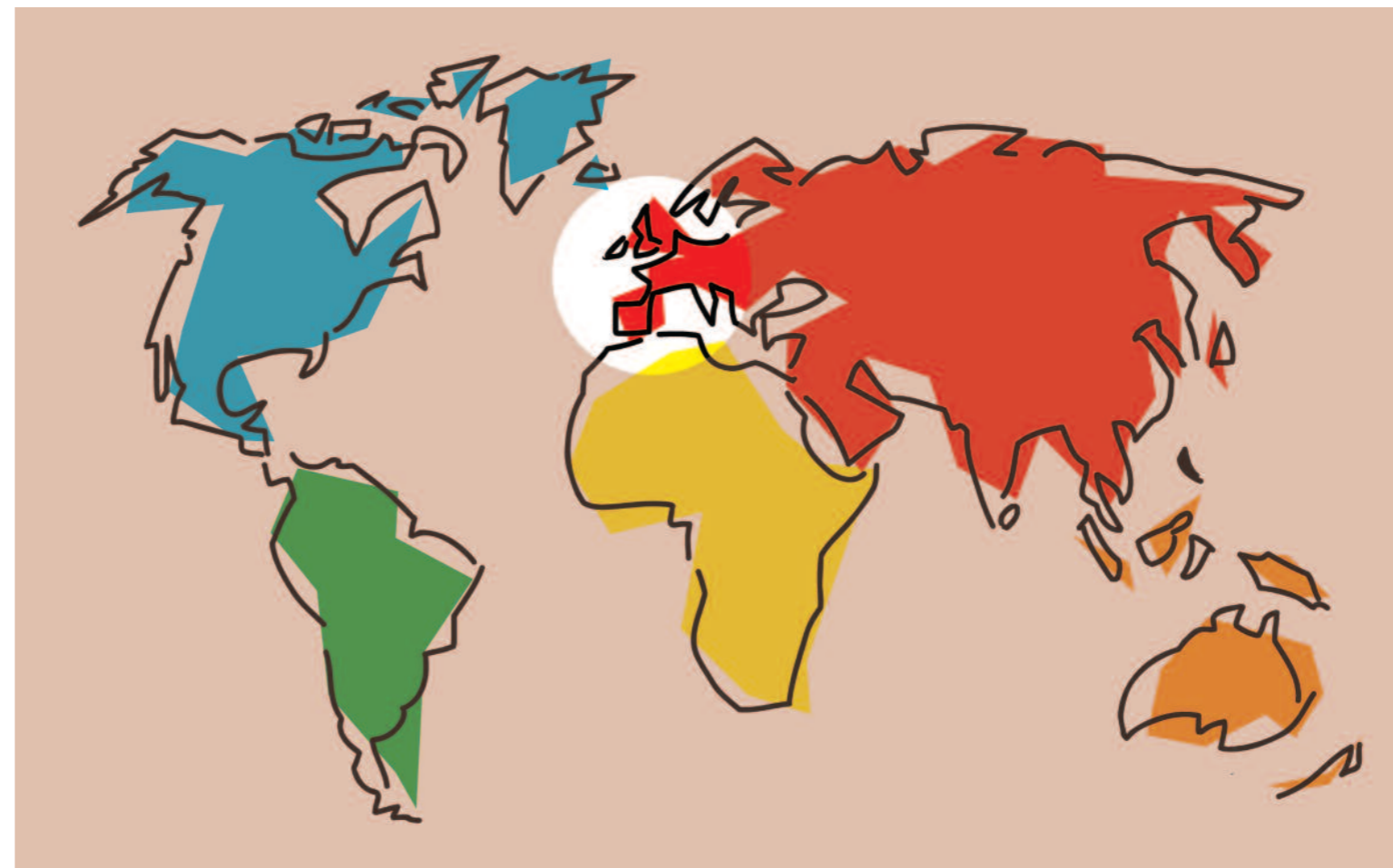
The conference organized by Journey of Hope is just one among the many activities carried out in the USA.

Abolitionists from Ohio and beyond undertook a seven day walk from the Lucasville prison, where death row inmates are executed to the Statehouse in Columbus.

The aim of the Walk To Stop Execution March, an 83 mile walk, was to call for an end to capital punishment as proposed in two bills pending in the House and Senate.

Witness to Innocence, the national organization of wrongly convicted and exonerated death row survivors, met in Cleveland and also called for an end to the death penalty in Ohio. Members of the group said 155 men and women in the U.S. have been wrongly sentenced to death since 1973 and advocated for reforms to prevent wrongful executions.

In California, an exhibition featuring more than 70 artworks by people incarcerated all over the United States, who were asked to draw and paint their daily life on Death Row was launched on World Day with the title: *“Windows on Death Row Art from Inside and Outside the Prison Walls”*.



EUROPE

In 2015 the situation of the death penalty stayed almost the same in the region

There were no recorded executions in Belarus

For World Day, European abolitionists organised 189 events in 21 countries

There are now 49 member organisations from 11 countries based in Europe

In 2015, the World Coalition worked for the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR and the Protocol 13 to the ECHR by all European States.

After Poland’s ratifications in 2014, three member states of the Council of Europe still have to ratify the abolitionist protocols:

- **Armenia** is the only country which has signed Protocol 13 to the ECHR, but has not ratified it, nor has it ratified OP2-ICCPR;
- **Azerbaijan** is the only country which has ratified OP2-ICCPR with a reservation, but not the Protocol 13 to the ECHR; and
- **Russia** is the only member state of the Council of Europe that has signed Protocol 6 to the ECHR but has not ratified it, nor has it ratified Protocol 13 to the ECHR or OP2-ICCPR.

PRI organised a mission in **Armenia** in May 2015. In Armenia the main obstacle to the

ratification is of political nature: **Azerbaijan** (in hostile relations with Armenia) has acceded to the Second Optional Protocol with a reservation in times of war, which is clearly meant for Armenia, therefore Armenian authorities are reluctant to ratify.

For World Day, abolitionists organised **189 events in 21 countries** (compared to 133 events in 18 countries in 2014 and 166 events in 44 countries in 2013). This high level mobilisation is due to the fact that several actions were targeted for European members.

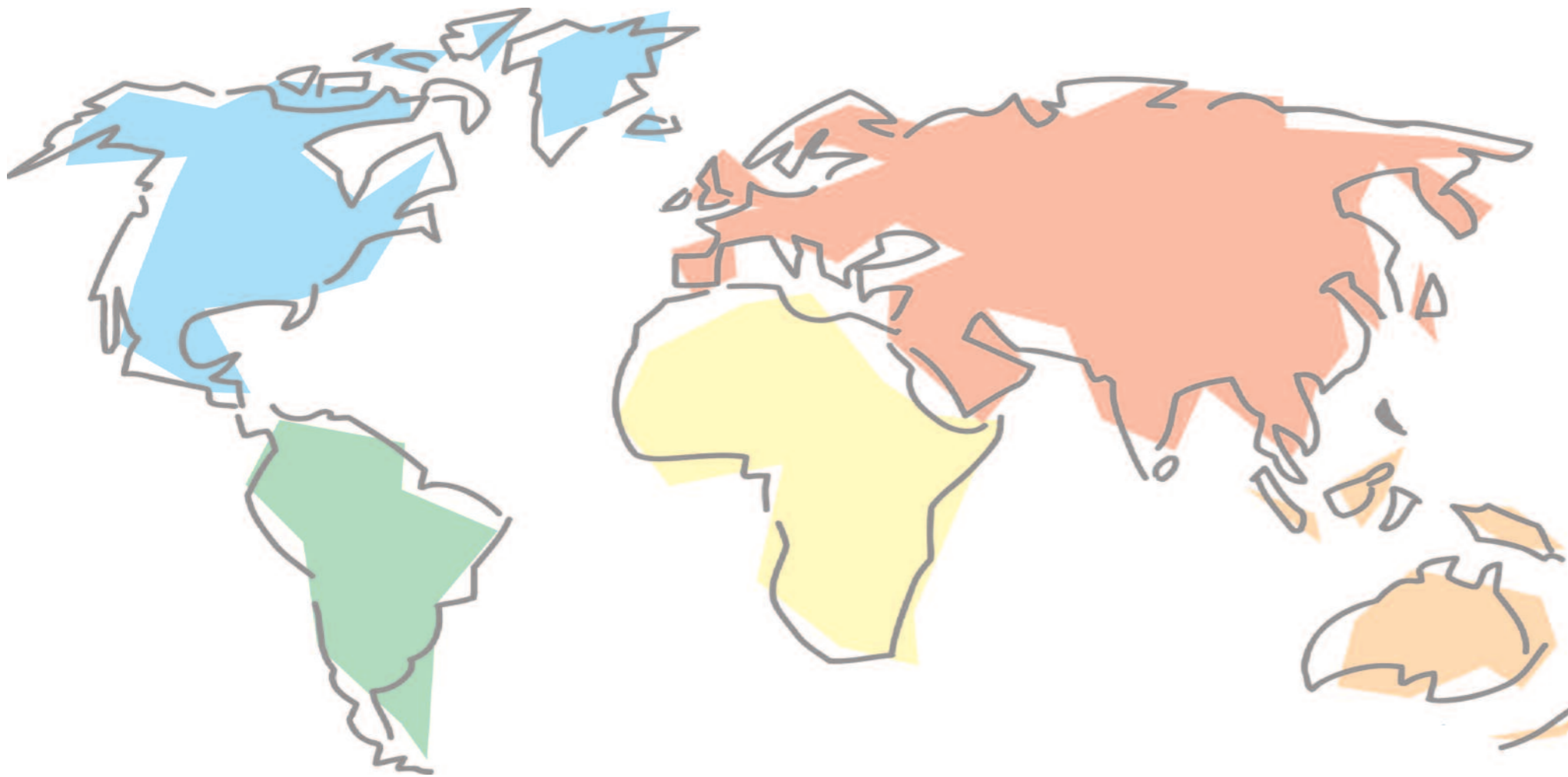
Since 2013, Viasna organises a Week Against the Death Penalty in **Belarus**. In 2015, it expanded its geography to the neighboring countries and from 5 to 10 October, a number of events (film screening, exhibitions, debates...) took place in **Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine, and Kazakhstan**.

Other events included an SMS Campaign for petition signatures in **Norway**, a demonstration to bury the death penalty in **Paris**, Live rock concerts in **Italy** and a Bicycle Ride Against the Death Penalty in **Brussels** to go around the Embassies of retentionist countries.

Earlier in February, the World Coalition co-signed a letter to the UK Home affairs Committee by Reprieve and Harm Reduction International. The letter called for the Committee to launch an urgent Inquiry into the Home Office’s financial and operational support for overseas drug operations, which lead to grave human rights abuses – focusing in particular on countries which apply the death penalty for drug offences.

Following on this idea, the World Coalition worked with Reprieve to provide European members with a memo to send a letter to their government to release information about the UNODC programs they are funding. This action had a great impact as after the letters from European members were sent, we received official answers from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of **France, Italy, Luxemburg and Switzerland**. Furthermore, the Deputy Executive Director of UNODC responded to the mailing sent by the World Coalition in July, reiterating their opposition to the death penalty, citing the five-year report.

Finally, the European Parliament passed a resolution stating that the abolition of the death penalty for drug-related offences should be made a prerequisite for EU financial and technical assistance to third countries.



INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION

The main objective of the 2015 World Day was to raise awareness around the application of the death penalty for drug-related offences, to reduce its use. The United Nations, the European Union and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights came together to proclaim that the death penalty was not the solution to deter criminals involved in drug trafficking. The Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon has urged Member States to abolish the death penalty which “does not dissuade from drug crimes, or protect people against drug abuse.”

431 events took place in 80 countries and 651 media references were recorded in 89 countries worldwide. By comparison, 425 events were organized in 82 countries in 2014 and the press review recorded 484 references in 88 countries.

Another objective was to raise visibility of the issue before the UNGASS on drugs, and the 13th World Day helped to strengthen ties with civil society working on risk-reduction related to drug use and drug policy reform through the theme of the World Day on the death penalty and drug trafficking. The fact that the International Harm Reduction Conference was organised in connection with World Day gave the World Coalition the perfect opportunity to contact associations such as the International Drug Policy Consortium, OSF and others. Since then,

an action plan for the World Coalition leading to UNGASS was developed closely with them and mobilization continues.

The World Coalition also follows-up the 2014 World Day on the death penalty and mental health, which has given the World Coalition the perfect opportunity to communicate with new partners, including with organisations defending the rights of people with disabilities. The discussion with mental health experts and disability organisations is ongoing. Meetings were organised with the UN Special Rapporteurs and the World Medical Association in **Geneva**. The World Health Organisation and the International Disability Alliance are also discussing internally about their respective position on the death penalty.

The World Coalition organised a side event during the session of the Committee on the rights of persons with disabilities in March to brief them on the death penalty issue. This issue will be further discussed at the next World Congress.

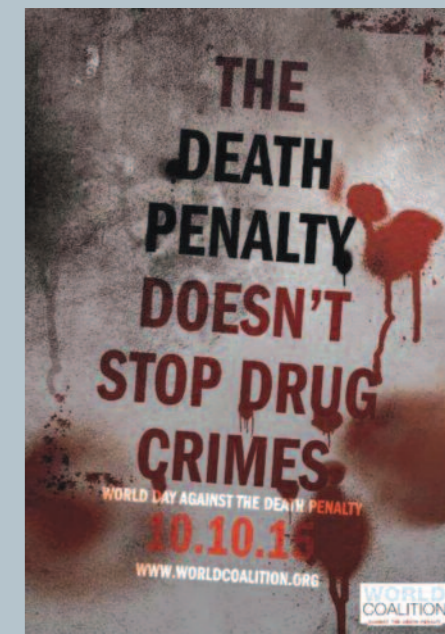
Since 2002, the Community of **Saint Egidio** has organized the International Day of Cities for Life, Cities against the Death Penalty, which takes place every year on November 30 – on the anniversary of the first abolition of the death penalty on the part of a State, the **Grand Duchy of Tuscany** on November 30, 1786. In 2015, again, the World Coalition promoted the event with its members and on its Website. More than 2,000 cities were listed as participating in 2015 in more than 90 countries on the five continents, including in countries that retain

the death penalty. The Steering Committee met in **Rome** on 29-30 November at the invitation of Saint Egidio and participated in the Cities for Life’s celebration at the Colosseum.

In 2015, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty conducted the third internal evaluation of the ratification campaign entitled “5 years on: results – best practices – strategy”. The main result of the campaign was the increase in the number of ratifications of international and regional protocols. Between 2010 and 2015, 10 countries have ratified at least one protocol, either regional or international or both (**Benin, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Gabon, Guinea Bissau, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Mongolia and Poland**) and two other countries signed the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (**Angola and Madagascar**).

A Ratification Kit for Parliamentarians was added to the list of tools available for the ratification campaign in 2015. Parliamentarians are essential to the process of abolition in several ways. They are central to law-making in their own countries, and in most countries, the ultimate decision on ratification rests with parliament, which must approve it. This new tool helps them understand the importance and the process of ratification and it helps civil society engage with them.

The World Coalition has continued to work to promote information-sharing through its website and the database on the death penalty worldwide.



2015

More than two thirds of the world’s countries have now abolished the death penalty in law or practice.

103 have abolished the death penalty for all crimes.

6 countries have abolished the death penalty for all crimes except extraordinary crimes such as those committed in times of war.

31 countries can be considered abolitionist in practice in that they have not executed anyone during the last 10 years and are believed to have a policy or established practice of not carrying out executions.

140 Therefore, 140 countries have abolished the death penalty in law or in practice.

58 countries and territories still uphold the death penalty and use this punishment.

25 countries carried out executions in 2015.

Of these 25 countries :

5 account for over 90% of executions worldwide: **China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and the United States.**



CONCLUSIONS

In 2015, the World Coalition went through a financially difficult period as its revenues substantially decreased from € 427,563 to € 282,542, which represented a 44% decrease. The expenses amounted to € 294,335 (€ 414,197 in 2014). The deficit for 2015 was therefore € 11,792.

The decrease in revenues is mainly due to a significant decrease in subsidies down from € 414,999 in 2014 to € 263,838 in 2015.

This is explained by the end of the grant from the Norwegian MFA on 31 December 2014 and the end of the program funded by Belgium and the European Union on 2 September, 2015.

Revenues from membership fees increased slightly in 2015 compared to 2014 from € 7,947 to € 10,400 but remain very low compared to the World Coalition's budget. They represented only 3.68% of the year revenues.

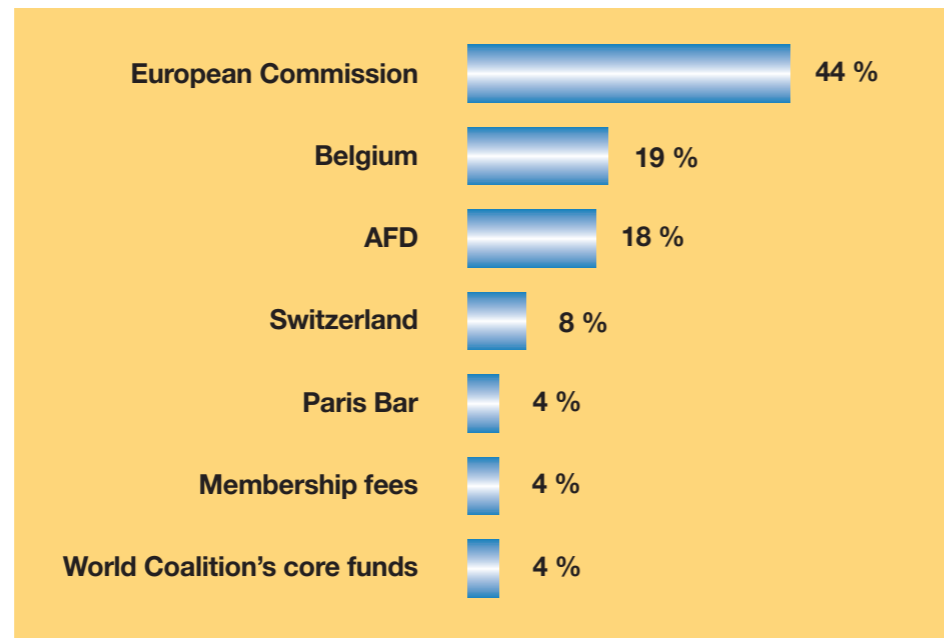
Donations were also very low and represented only € 200 in 2015.

Salary expenses amounted to € 117,106 in 2015, they accounted for € 130,151 in 2014. This decrease is mainly due to partial unemployment of employees from May to September 2015.

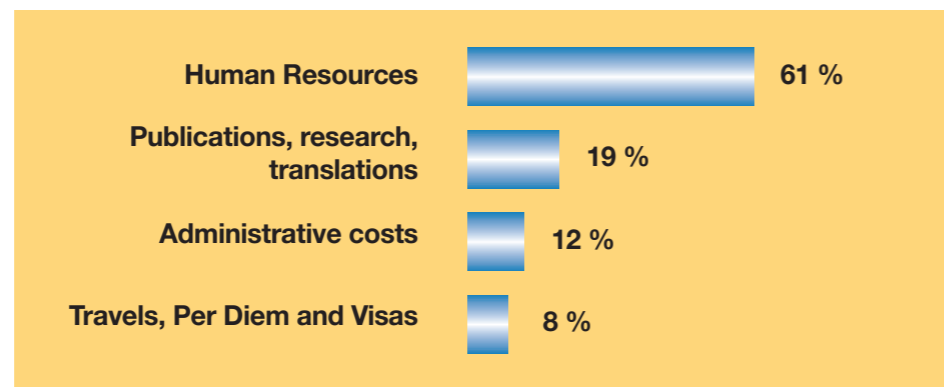
Other expenses were also significantly reduced from € 219,299 to € 110,642. This decline is especially seen in the reduction of costs of missions, publications and mailing.

Guillaume Colin
Treasurer

Sources of funding in 2015



Expenses in 2015



The World Coalition would like to especially thank the European Union, the French Development Agency (AFD), the Kingdom of Belgium and Norway, Switzerland and the Paris Bar for their regular and ongoing support. The World Coalition is grateful to its donors and wants to stress that without them, its vital work of mobilisation and coordination of the global abolitionist movement would not be done.

Our confidence that the world community will achieve abolition of the death penalty is unwavering, even as we experienced tragic setbacks over the past year. The energy, commitment, trajectory over time and history, all favor an end to state killing. Far more countries reject execution than practice it. At this time, 140 nations have abandoned the death penalty, either in law or in practice, and even with the very disturbing increase in executions in 2015, they were carried out in the relatively small number of 25 nations. Indeed, 90% of executions occurred in Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia (excepting China, where data are not publicly available).

The spike in executions in 2015, as we have said, was due in large part to reaction to drug trafficking. Pakistan's ending of its moratorium was apparently triggered by a mass killing and an official determination to crack down on terrorists. The World Coalition will again highlight a critical issue in 2016, as we focus on the death penalty and terrorism.

An internal evaluation conducted by the World Coalition in 2014 showed the importance of further supporting the work of member organizations. This analysis was reinforced by an external evaluation conducted at the end of the EU funding in 2015, which recommended the World Coalition to further expand its outreach and support to members, and to further develop the capacity-building and training component of its work. Several actions were carried out to this end in 2015, including an online training offered by The Advocates for Human Rights and a training session in Morocco during a lobbying mission. We are now focusing on this aspect of our work starting with a regional training session for our members based in Sub Saharan Africa in 2016.

As we work to be ever more responsive to the needs of our members, we still work to find ways to financially support the work. We have always worked alongside others, and we are finding our partnerships and collaborations can maximize the use of everyone's efforts and resources. Even as we look for more effective ways to work, we look for new resources to continue to fulfill our mandate.

To contribute to a world without the death penalty, support the World Coalition.
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World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, an alliance of more than 140 NGOs, bar associations, local authorities and unions, was created in Rome on 13 May 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 Strasbourg in June 2001.

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 is seeking to obtain a reduction in the use of capital punishment as a first step towards abolition.

Since 2003, the Coalition has made 10 October the World Day against the Death Penalty.

For more information:

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