

ACTIVITY REPORT
2014



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

www.worldcoalition.org

INTRODUCTION BY THE PRESIDENT

Nothing can ever be taken for granted, that's how I would sum up the year 2014.

As the idea of the abolition of the death penalty has gained more and more support, and as this fight has scored points, the abolitionist movement, which has now proven to be a truly international one, suffered stinging setbacks.

That is yet another reason to mobilize more, be creative, not to be discouraged by the difficulties that all NGOs defending human rights have in persuading donors to continue to fund them, and mobilize new citizens shocked, and rightly so, by other serious human rights violations than capital punishment.

The 2014 report shows the wealth of options explored, the acuity of the difficulties ahead but also our unwavering belief in the ability of men and women of the twenty-first century to finally abolish capital punishment universally as their ancestors did with slavery and torture.

Of course, there is a difference between law and practice, and torture and slavery, as we know, do persist. But the death penalty is precisely a punishment that is legally granted by the competent authorities, its abolition in law, therefore, also marks its disappearance in practice.

Without turning a blind eye on other forms of violence that societies suffer because of the very people that makes them, we shall start by getting rid of this illegitimate, unfair, absurd, irreparable, unequal and unworthy state sanctioned violence that the death penalty is.



Florence Bellivier



AFRICA

In 2014 Africa was the continent where most progress was made towards the abolition of the death penalty

- **Madagascar legally abolished the death penalty for all crimes;**
- **Chad moved towards complete abolition;**
- **The regional mobilisation aiming at adopting a regional protocol on capital punishment grew stronger;**
- **Gabon acceded to the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR;**
- **Niger, Eritrea and Equatorial Guinea supported the UNGA moratorium resolution for the first time, while Uganda went from a negative vote to abstention;**
- **Mano river union youth parliament, an organisation from Sierra Leone, joined the World Coalition. There are now 31 member organisations from 13 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.**

Throughout the year several were the occasions offered to the abolitionist community to gather and exchange information and experiences.

In January 2014 a conference organized by Hand Off Cain and the Government of Sierra Leone with the support of the World Coalition and FIACAT saw the participation of representatives of governments and civil society from the following countries : **Sierra Leone, Mali, Burkina Faso, Togo, Liberia, Niger, Guinea, Rwanda, Benin, Ghana, Italy** and representatives of the Working Group on the Death Penalty of the African Commission (the Working Group), Parliamentarians for Global Action and several parliaments in the region .

The Coalition had invited the following members: *Rescue Alternatives Liberia, SY-NAFEN, Les mêmes droits pour tous* and *ACAT Ghana*. *FIACAT* had invited the *ACAT from Burkina and Mali*.

During the conference, *the World Coalition* and its members were given the opportunity to present the situation of the death penalty in the countries represented.

The conference was an opportunity for lobbying in the context of the moratorium campaign and the ratification campaign. As far as the moratorium campaign was concerned the Minister of Justice of **Niger** asked the World Coalition to send a presentation on the moratorium resolution and try to organize a working meeting on the sidelines of the meeting of the ACHPR that was supposed to be held in Niamey in October around World day. The Minister was not aware of the abstention of Niger for the vote in 2012 and he wanted to try to push the government to vote in favour in 2014.

As a result of the advocacy efforts carried out by the World Coalition and its members Niger was among those states that shifted their vote from abs-

tention to a vote in favour of resolution A/RES/69/186 “Moratorium on the use of the death penalty” adopted by the 69th UN General Assembly in December 2014. In the context of the ratification campaign the World Coalition discussed about the possible ratification of Protocol 2 with the representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of **Togo**, one of the target countries.

The conference was followed by a meeting of members of the World Coalition and FIACAT to discuss about different countries and future work. Most members are in the process of organizing information campaigns for the general public through the use of local radios. It was decided that the Coalition would have worked with RAL to present alternative reports on **Liberia** at the African Commission that discussed Liberia during the April 2014 session and at the UN Human Rights Council. All members and ACATS stressed the importance

of their participation in the conference to have a vision of where we stand as far as the death penalty is concerned in the region beyond the situation in their countries and the conference gave them the opportunity to meet and discuss with representatives of their governments.

In Sierra Leone the Working Group announced that a continental conference would have been organised in order to start the debate on the draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights before its adoption by the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR). From July 2 to 4, 2014, the ACHPR, in cooperation with the Benin authorities, organised the first Continental Conference on the death penalty in Cotonou, **Benin**. This Conference, which gathered representatives from African Union (AU) member States, parliamentarians, national human rights institutions and civil society organisations, opened the debate on the issue of the death penalty in Africa as well as the need for the adoption of a regional legal instrument on its abolition.

The Director, **Maria Donatelli**, together with **Chino Obiagwu** (LEDAP, Nigeria) represented the World Coalition at the conference. The two representatives of the World Coalition spoke at the two plenaries of the conference on the death penalty in the United States and on death penalty, criminology and victims.

On 5 July 2014, 78 human rights organisations launched a "Manifesto for a Protocol to the African Charter on the abolition of the death penalty" supporting the adoption, by AU Member States, of a regional legal instrument expressly stating the abolition of the death penalty. The draft Protocol was supposed to be adopted by the ACHPR in October 2014 but due to the Ebola epidemics the 56th Ordinary session of the ACHPR was cancelled and it will take place in April 2015.

The World Coalition worked for the adoption of this regional instrument and at the same time it kept pushing African states to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The following African countries were part of the target countries for the Ratification campaign in 2014: **Angola, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire and Togo**.

In December 2014, FIACAT organised an advocacy mission in **Togo** with ACAT Togo and another advocacy mission in Cote d'Ivoire with ACAT **Cote d'Ivoire** in the context of this campaign and used the materials developed by the World Coalition. During this mission in Togo, they met with the Human Rights Minister, the National Human Rights Commission, the French Embassy and the European Union Delegation to Togo to express their concerns.

In 2015, Togo is moving towards ratification of the treaty and Cote d'Ivoire abolished the death penalty in its Penal Code.

The World Coalition submitted reports recommending the ratification for the UPR of **Angola, Cote d'Ivoire and Madagascar**. They all accepted the recommendation.

The African continent was also fundamental in confirming the universal trend towards abolition stressed by the increasing support gained by the UNGA resolution "Moratorium on the Use of the death penalty". The African states supporting the resolution in December 2014 were 27 countries (23 in 2012), 6 voted against (8 in 2012), 18 abstained (as in 2012) and 3 were absent for the vote (5 in 2012), raising hope for abolitionists on the continent.

In 2014, World Day Against the Death Penalty World Coalition member organisations organised 87 events in 22 countries (compared to 60 events in 16 countries in 2013 and 99 events in 25 countries in 2012).

Some of them highlighted the plight of people with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities facing the death penalty in their country. In Lagos, a press release issued by HURILAWS detailed how "Nigeria has applied the death penalty for more than 50 years with no serious attention paid to mental health".

"Instances abound every day in Nigeria where accused persons with serious mental health problems are put on trial without adequate support where they are unable to participate effectively in their own defence," HURILAWS added, citing high-profile cases. Among the events organised in Africa, the World Coalition together with ACAT Madagascar, FIACAT, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Ministry of Justice organised an awareness-raising workshop on the abolition of the death penalty. In a final declaration, the workshop participants welcomed "the steps taken by the National Assembly for the development of a bill to abolish the death penalty" and encouraged the President of the Assembly 'to include it on the agenda for the October 2014 session".

On 10 December 2014, the members of the National Assembly followed up on the World Day workshop's final results and the UPR's recommendations (November 2014) by adopting the bill making **Madagascar the 18th African Union member state to abolish the death penalty for all crimes**.

Another important event that took place in Africa was the Journey of Hope... From Violence to Healing's mission to **Uganda** at the request of former death row prisoner **Edward Mpagi**. This collaboration brought to the creation of a new national coalition against the death penalty, Ugandans Against the Death Penalty which is now working on registering members country wide.

Throughout the year the World Coalition collaborated with its members in order to submit reports to the Human Rights Council for the Universal Periodic Review of Malawi and Liberia. The report on Liberia was coordinated by FIACAT and co-signed by World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, while the one on Malawi was coordinated by the Advocates for Human Rights and co-submitted by the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty



MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

In 2014, the overall situation of the death penalty deteriorated in the region

- **Mass death sentences were pronounced in Egypt against political opponents and executions resumed;**
- **The number of executions dramatically increased in Iran;**
- **Threats to end the eight years moratorium on executions in Jordan became reality on 21 December 2014.**
- **However, Tunisia reaffirmed the positive vote already expressed in 2012 for the UNGA moratorium resolution and Bahrain moved from a negative vote to abstention;**
- **Lualua Center for Human Rights, an organisation from Lebanon, joined the World Coalition. There are now 29 member organisations from 8 countries in the Middle East and North Africa.**

Given the slow progress towards abolition one of the strategies adopted in the region was to stress on the role of parliamentarians and lawyers in the fight against the death penalty.

Workshops were organised in both **Lebanon and Morocco** by Ensemble contre la peine de mort and the Paris Bar Association, together with local partners Lebanese Association for Civil Rights (LACR) and Moroccan Coalition Against the Death penalty, to present and discuss the content of the Death Penalty Worldwide and World Coalition's manual "*Representing Individuals Facing the Death Penalty: A Best Practices Manual*".

In November 2014 the World Coalition Steering Committee was invited by the

Moroccan government to participate in the Second World Human Rights Forum in Marrakech. Debates on the abolition of the death penalty at the World Human Rights Forum highlighted the situation in the host country among the major fronts in the abolitionist struggle.

The king of Morocco himself launched the discussion during the opening ceremony: "*We are welcoming the debate around the death penalty conducted by civil society, numerous parliamentarians and lawyers. It will allow this issue to mature and be dealt with in depth,*" **Mohammed VI** said in a message read by Justice and Liberties Minister **Mustapha Ramid**.

World Coalition President **Florence Bellivier** spoke at the opening session of the

Forum and recalled that "*We must move fast and not content ourselves with discussing the pros and cons of the death penalty. We must not content ourselves with moratoria such as the one in force in Morocco, because although they save lives, they are as fragile as life itself*".

The same reluctance to abolish the death penalty legislation can be seen across the Arab World. A representative from the Algerian Human Rights League said his country, a sponsor of the UN moratorium resolution, had "*settled in a comfortable moratorium situation*" but continued to hand down death sentences.

A member of the Tunisian Coalition Against the Death Penalty regretted that her country had not abolished capital punishment

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

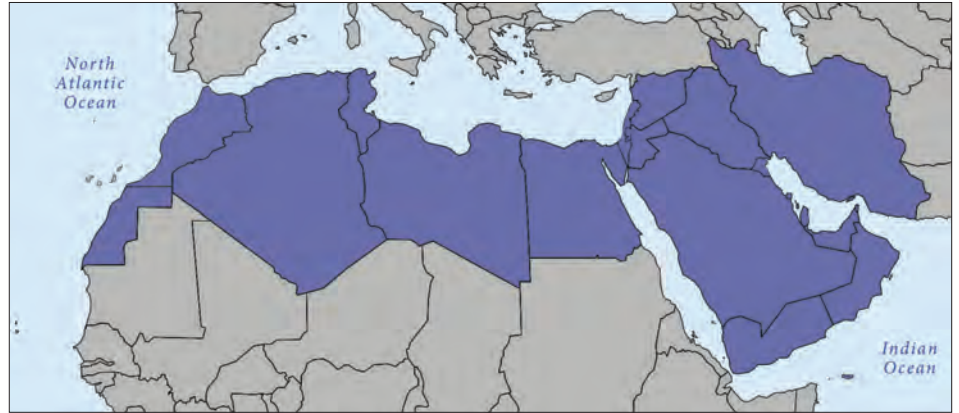
while adopting a new constitution, but she vowed to keep up the fight. Abolitionists there are preparing to lobby newly elected MPs, especially with a new anti-terror bill tabled to come before parliament soon. In the Middle East, other challenges have emerged. Jordan-based Taghreed Jaber, Penal Reform International's regional director, noted the growing political manipulation of the death penalty. Jaber added that spreading conflict in the region and its media coverage have "trivialised violence".

Despite difficulties to move towards abolition, a very active civil society and mobilised lawyers and parliamentarians pushed the World Coalition to add for the first time since the launch of the Ratification campaign an Arabic country, Morocco, to become a target of such campaign. A mission in country and a training on how and why moving towards ratification will be carried out in 2015.

For World Day, World Coalition member organisations organised 29 events in 7 countries (compared to 19 events in 7 countries in 2013 and 40 events in 8 countries in 2012) and 59 press cuts in 11 countries were counted.

Mobilisation is often less intense and more difficult in retentionist countries, which was especially true in the Middle East in 2014. However, the consultation of the World Coalition's Website in Arabic has soared, reflecting the interest of Arab speaking people for the issue of the death penalty. Despite this, the **MENA region** is also the region where the least articles were published for World Day.

As in previous years, most of the events were organised in the abolitionist countries



in practice of North Africa. The World Coalition worked with its members Reprieve, Human Rights Watch, Harm Reduction International and Iran Human Rights on the issue of UNODC funds for programs in countries where there is still the death penalty for drugs related crimes.

A special focus was put on **Iran** and lobbying actions were carried out addressing both UNODC and its European donors.

The issue of death penalty for drug related crimes and the role of the UN in supporting enforcement programs in retentionist countries was the topic of a speech delivered by World Coalition, Harm Reduction International, Reprieve and Human Rights Watch during the high-level panel on the question of the death penalty, held on 5 March 2014 pursuant to Human Rights Council decision 22/117 and during the interactive dialogue on the issue with the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Following this, and given the poor dialogue with UNODC, the group of NGOs decided to send a letter on the issue to UN Secretary General **Ban Ki-moon** to call not for aid conditionality but for an end to funding and assistance that contributes, directly or

indirectly, to executions. In the UN secretary General's 2014 report on the question of the death penalty submitted to the Human Rights Council, as in previous such reports, concerns were raised about the imposition of the death penalty for drug offenses and, in particular, about international and UN assistance for drug enforcement in retentionist states.

This concerns are shared by the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, **Christof Heyns**, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the **Islamic Republic of Iran**, **Ahmed Shaheed**, and other special procedures.

The letter asked UNODC to enforce robust human rights standards from project planning to ongoing monitoring and periodic and final evaluation.

At the end of 2014 following another unsatisfactory reply by UNODC Executive Director, **Yuri Fedotov**, a statement on the need for UNODC to withdraw its support for counter-narcotics police operations in Iran until the death penalty for drug offenses is abolished was published by the New York Times.

Throughout the year the World Coalition collaborated with its members in order to submit reports to the Human Rights Council for the Universal Periodic Review of Iraq and Iran.

The report on Iran was coordinated by Rosalyn Park, the Advocates for Human Rights and co-signed by Abdorrahman Boroumand Foundation, The Advocates for Human Rights, Association for Human Rights in Kurdistan of Iran-Geneva, Iran Human Rights, and the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty. The report on Iraq was coordinated by Rosalyn Park, the Advocates for Human Rights and submitted by The Advocates for Human Rights, in collaboration with The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty and the Iraqi Coalition Against the Death Penalty.



ASIA - PACIFIC

In 2014 the situation of the death penalty in Asia was characterised by some setbacks

- **The end of the moratorium in Pakistan on 17 December 2014 (with 7 executions between 17 and 31 December) and in Singapore;**
- **More executions in Taiwan and Japan;**
- **An increase in the number of capital crimes in the Kazakh Penal Code;**
- **A shift towards the reintroduction of the death penalty in Papua New Guinea.**

However, there were also a few bright spots:

- **On 21 January 2014, India's Supreme Court formally banned the execution of mentally ill prisoners and in doing so highlighted why World Day was dedicated to issues of mental health;**
- **Fiji voted in favour of the UNGA moratorium resolution for the first time and Myanmar and Tonga abstained after voting no for the past four resolutions;**
- **Legal Awareness Watch, an organisation from Pakistan, joined the World Coalition. There are now 17 member organisations from 11 countries in Asia.**

Given the slow progress towards abolition in the region, once again, the Death Penalty Worldwide and World Coalition's manual *"Representing Individuals Facing the Death Penalty: A Best Practices Manual"*, translated in traditional Chinese in 2013, was one of the resources used by abolitionist of the region especially in **Taiwan**, were World Coalition's member the Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty organized trainings for criminal defence lawyers.

A positive development in the region was given by the strengthening of the cooperation among Asian abolitionists when the Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network, a coal-

ition hosted by Amnesty International in London since 2006, became an independent organisation registered in **Malaysia** and held its first AGM in Taipei, Taiwan on 4-5 December.

The meeting saw active discussions about the action plan and the agenda for the next two years, including the Regional Congress Against the Death Penalty, organised by Ensemble contre la peine de mort, due to take place in Malaysia in June 2015.

In the context of the ratification campaign the World Coalition selected two countries in this region as its target: **Cambodia and Samoa.**

As far as **Cambodia** is concerned it had its second UPR in 2014 and it accepted the recommendation to ratify the Protocol, then sent a note saying that the *"recommendations are noted and are under consideration among the inter-ministerial in order to make sure they reflect the situation on the ground and in line with national, regional situation."*

A mission to Cambodia will be organised by the World Coalition and the Paris Bar Association in 2015. The World Coalition is collecting more information on **Samoa** before carrying out a mission on the ground given the difficulties for countries in the Pacific to ratify international treaties.

The moratorium campaign proved to be very difficult to develop in the region. **Papua New Guinea**, after a positive change in 2012, went back to opposing the resolution.

Yet positive steps forward were taken by **Fiji** that voted in favour and **Myanmar and Tonga** that abstained.

For World Day, World Coalition member organisations organised 89 events in 17 countries (compared to 97 events in 14 countries in 2013 and 81 events in 18 countries in 2012) and 74 press cuts in 20 countries were counted.

In those countries where the abolition of the death penalty is not envisaged in the near future, the impacts of the World Day is more limited and motivation is often lacking when facing difficulties and hostility for organising collective abolitionist events.

To remedy this, the World Coalition wishes to develop a new program, in line with the expectations of its members set during the internal evaluation, to fund training of abolitionist and organization of events in countries that desperately needs it.

2015 WORLD DAY

For the 2015 World Day which will focus on the death penalty for drug trafficking, the main objective will be to raise public awareness to the application of the death penalty for drug trafficking in order to reduce its use.

More emphasis will be placed on **Southeast Asia, Iran, China and Saudi Arabia** that still execute people for crimes related to drug trafficking.

The World Coalition collaborated with its members Reprieve, Human Rights Watch, Harm Reduction International and Iran Human Rights on the issue of UNODC funds for programs in countries where there is still the death penalty for drugs related crimes.

Specific attention was given to the situation of Pakistan and Vietnam.

Following 30 death sentences for drug related crimes by a Vietnamese court, Reprieve, Harm Reduction International and the World Coalition wrote a letter to the UN Resident Coordinator and the UNODC Representative in the country to address the issue.

UN drug enforcement support in Vietnam is extensive, including support over the years for multiple border liaison posts.

The UNODC country strategy 2012-2017 includes a budget of over \$5 million for technical assistance, equipment, training and other support, (sub-programme 1 strategy).

It is the largest component of the country strategy, incorporating transnational organised crime.

The organisations asked for explanation on the involvement of the United Nations in operations that led to those sentences.

The UN representative replied to the letter explaining the commitment of the United Nations to the protection of Human Rights and the fight against the death penalty but not really addressing the questions asked.



AMERICAS

In 2014 the situation of the death penalty stayed almost the same in the region

- An important achievement was the formal legal establishment of the Greater Caribbean for Life network;
- In the USA, New Hampshire was one vote short of abolition with a bill to repeal the death penalty in blocked in the Senate on 22 April with votes for and against the bill deadlocked at 12-12;
- In California, United States Federal District Court Judge Cormac J. Carney ruled on 16 July that California's death penalty system violates the US Constitution;
- El Salvador ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR on 8 April 2014;
- Suriname supported the UNGA moratorium resolution for the first time and went on to abolish the death penalty beginning of 2015;
- Three organisations based in the USA joined the World Coalition: Human Rights Activists in Iran, New Hampshire Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty and Parliamentarians for Global Action. There are now 28 member organisations in 6 countries in the Americas.

The Greater Caribbean for Life network was formally registered in Puerto Rico in January 2014.

The ultimate goal of the GCL is to achieve the permanent abolition of the death penalty in each and every country of the Greater Caribbean as well as the creation of a culture of respect for the human right to life and the inherent dignity of all human beings.

The Caribbean were also one of the main focus of the 2014 WCADP General Assembly which was held in Puerto Rico at the invitation of the Puerto Rico Bar Association and the Puerto Rican Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

Regional abolitionists taking part in the World Coalition's annual general meeting received a boost from the latest news in Suriname, where a bill to abolish the death penalty was being pushed before the Parliament. "Suriname will soon abolish the death penalty in its criminal code," the country's National Assembly vice-chair Ruth Wijdenbosch representative of Coalition's member Parliamentarians for

Global Action told the meeting. Suriname did abolish the death penalty in 2015 (see more below).

Steps forward were taken as far as the ratification campaign was concerned.

The Dominican Republic and Haiti are target countries for the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.

In June 2014, Raphael Chenuil Hazan, Ensemble contre la peine de mort, conducted a mission to Haiti in the context of the campaign and met with several stakeholders there and in particular with the cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Director of the Cabinet ensured that the govern-

ment will push for the ratification and will lobby the parliament to approve the necessary legislation. A mission in the **Dominican Republic** will be organized in 2015.

The World Coalition submitted reports recommending the ratification for the UPR of Dominican Republic, which noted the recommendation.

A report was also submitted for **Bolivia's** UPR which accepted the recommendation to ratify the American Protocol and another one was submitted for **El Salvador's** UPR recommending the withdrawal of the reservation to the Second Protocol to the ICCPR and the abolition of the death penalty for all crimes.

During the vote at the UN General Assembly on the 5th resolution "*Moratorium on the death penalty*" the retentionist countries of the region as in previous years were among the strongest opponents of the text.

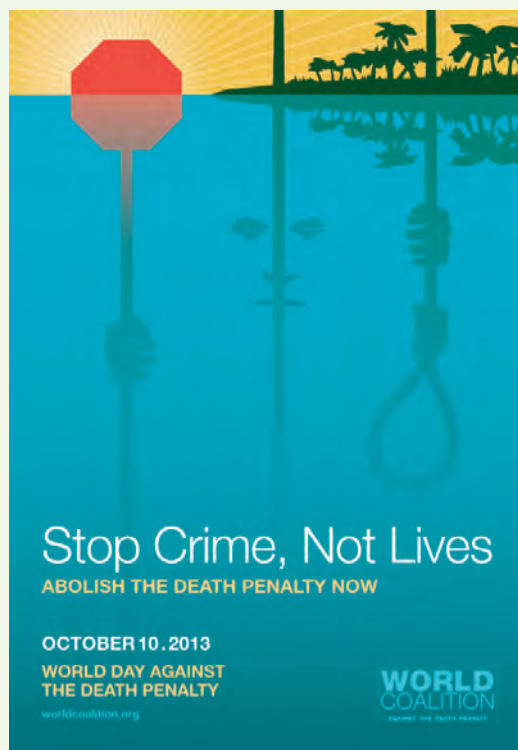
A positive step was taken by **Suriname** that supported the resolution for the first time, showing the will to move towards abolition already expressed during the World Coalition's general assembly meeting in June.

For World Day, World Coalition member organisations organised 86 events in 18 countries (compared to 52 events in 9 countries in 2013 and 44 events in 10 countries in 2012).

Never before had there been so many events organised in so many different countries in the region and this was clearly a result of the 2013 World Day Against the Death Penalty dedicated to the Caribbean when events had already unfolded on an unprecedented scale in the region and when local activists and international organisations had clearly taken a position against capital punishment in the Caribbean.

For example, the Greater Caribbean for Life organised a series of events in **Guatemala, St. Lucia, Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Barbados, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda, and the Bahamas.**

In addition, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the OAS issued a press release calling for the abolition of the death penalty for the first time (they had called for a moratorium on the death penalty in 2013) and organized a two-day conference in **Costa Rica.**



One of the recommendations stemming from the 10th World Day Against the Death Penalty was to plan long-term activities so that events linked to the World Day are not reduced to a single action but integrated into more long-term campaigns.

That was achieved for the 11th World Day which was part of a long-term strategy with the creation of an abolitionist network in the Caribbean and the subsequent high numbers of events in the region in 2014.



EUROPE

In 2014 the situation of the death penalty stayed almost the same in the region

- **Belarus resumed executions in April after two years;**
- **Poland ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR on 25 April 2014 and the Protocol No. 13 to the European Convention for Human Rights on 23 May 2014;**
- **Center for Civil and Political Rights, an organization based in Switzerland, joined the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty. There are now 55 member organisations from 11 countries based in Europe.**

In 2014, 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.

For World Day, World Coalition abolitionists organised 133 events in 18 countries (compared to 166 events in 44 countries in 2013 and 139 events in 15 countries in 2012).

This relatively low mobilisation compared to 2013, especially in the number of countries, is due to the fact that in 2013, 42 members state of the Council of Europe had co-signed and published an official declaration.

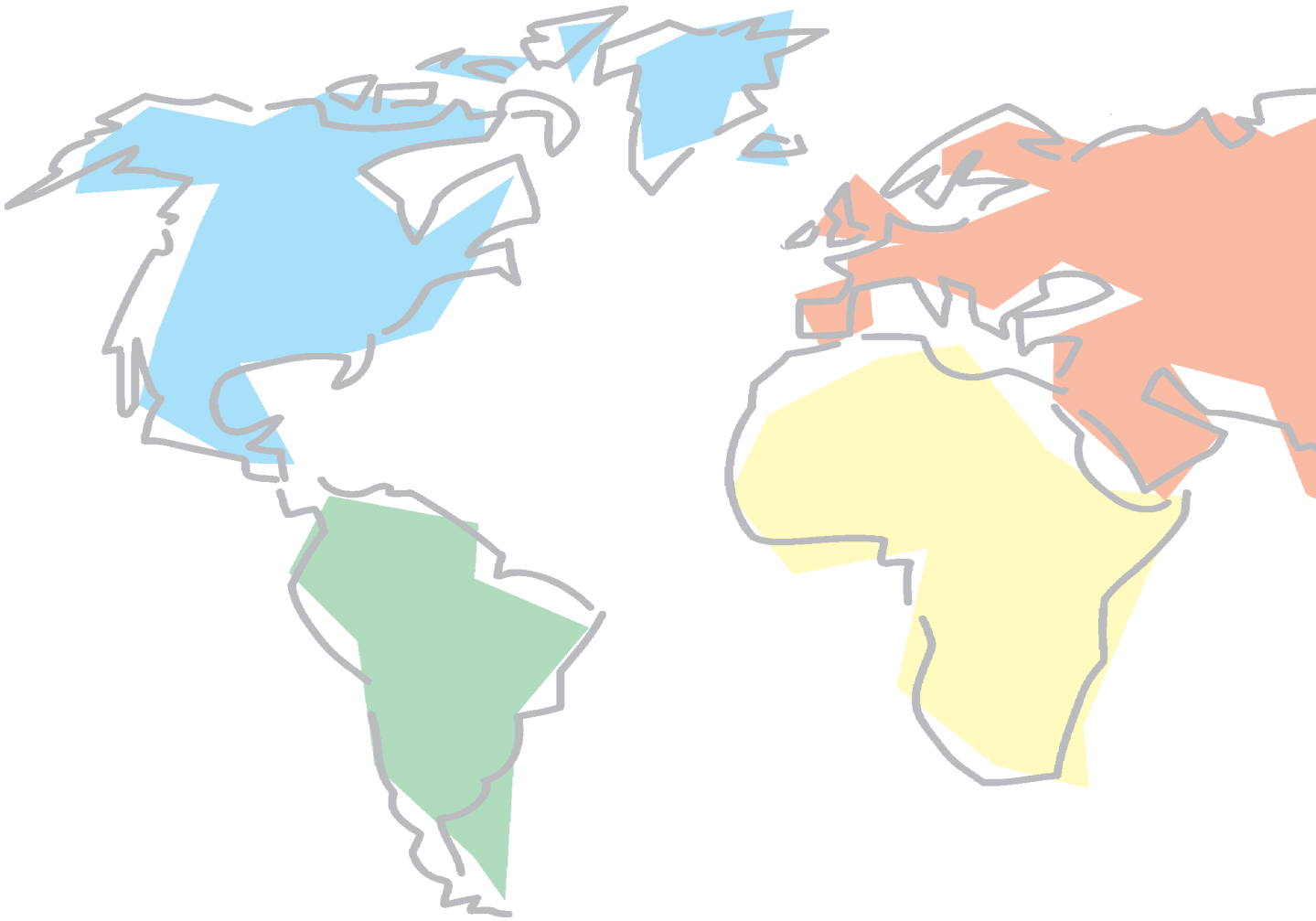
As in previous years, mobilisation in **Belarus** was extremely intense and varied in terms of activities carried out. **In the rest of abolitionist Europe**, institutional mobilisation was very high. EU Member States and European delegations in retentionist countries were again very active on 10 October.

The UN has also played a big role this year with a video statement of **Ban Ki-moon**, mentioning the World Day for the first time. At an event entitled "*A justice that kills - the death penalty in the 21st century*" and held at the UN in Geneva by **Italy** and the **European Union**, the Secretary General of the UN Ban Ki moon sent a message of support to the World Day, calling on world leaders to put in place a moratorium on executions and ratify the UN Protocol on

the abolition of the death penalty. "*We want to make this living Protocol*," said **Florence Bellivier** at a ceremony organized in Geneva by CCPR Center and the Global Coalition to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the treaty banning the death penalty in countries that have ratified it.

At the initiative of the Swiss government, foreign ministers from 12 countries on 5 continents in which the death penalty has been abolished or not signed a joint statement calling their vows a world that "*respect human dignity*" to occasion of the World Day against the Death Penalty. The World Coalition has been associated with this initiative to translate the statement in the languages and published on its website in 7 languages.

Finally, several members of the British diplomatic network participated to the #no-deathpenalty campaign, through which social network users posted in a Selfie with a sign explaining why they oppose the death penalty.



INTERNATIONAL



The World Day theme was discussed during the public debates of the General Assembly which saw the participation of experts on the issue such as Dr Stephen Greenspan, a developmental psychologist involved as a forensic expert in many capital cases in the US and psychiatrist Dr Terry Kupers, who has been studying prison populations for several decades.

In addition to the usual mobilisation and information tools, new tools have been developed this year: 6 factsheets for professionals (judges, parliamentarians, lawyers, doctors, prison guards and journalists) to reach a new audience and avoid the risk that people with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities are sent to the death row, or even executed:

- **Factsheet for judges** for the immediate implementation of existing standards barring the imposition of death sentences or executions on those with intellectual disabilities and those who are seriously mentally ill. The practice of executing such persons should cease immediately.

- **Factsheet for parliamentarians** to renew efforts to (i) ensure that all states have laws that embed international protections in their domestic legislation; (ii) extend protection to those with serious mental illness not covered by existing proscriptions against executing persons affected by “insanity”.

- **Factsheet for medical professionals and for prison staff** for the adoption by national medical and legal professional bodies of codes of conduct ensuring that professionals do not act unethically or unprofessionally in capital cases.

- **Factsheet for lawyers** to ensure that adequate mental health care is available for defendants in capital cases in which mental or intellectual disabilities are claimed as a factor.

- **Factsheet for journalists** to work towards the reduction of stigma against persons with mental or intellectual disabilities, particularly where media reports promote inaccurate public beliefs about risks posed by such persons.



2014

In 2014 the abolitionist movement focused on mental health and the death penalty: mental health is a critical factor to consider at every stage of the death penalty process, from before a person commits a crime through the government's execution of the convicted person, and even post-execution, as the death penalty affects the mental health of the families concerned.

DIMENSION

October 10 is World Mental Health Day, which has given the World Coalition the perfect opportunity to communicate with international medical associations such as the World Health Organisation (WHO), the World Medical Association, International Council of Nurses and the World Federation for Mental Health. Some of them have made official statements, others spoke of World Day against the death penalty at their events on mental health or met with a delegation of the World Coalition.

Since October 10, and following the recommendation of the WHO and the OHCHR, the discussion has begun with new partners defending the rights of people with disabilities, including:

- **Devandas Catalina Aguilar**
(Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities whose term began in December 2014)
- **Dainius Puras**
(Special Rapporteur on the right to health)
- **Christopher Heyns**
(Special Rapporteur on executions)

- **Juan Mendez**
(Special Rapporteur on Torture)
- **Committee on the Rights of People with Disabilities**
- **Human Rights Committee**
- **International Disability Alliance**
- **World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry**

The midterm objective is the adoption of a common position on how to protect the rights of disabled people facing the death penalty.

Since 2002, the Community of Sant'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. More than 1,850 cities were listed to participate in 2014 in more than 90 countries on the five continents, including in countries that retain the death penalty. The International Day of

Cities for Life/Cities against the Death Penalty constitutes, along with the **World day against the Death Penalty** on October 10, the biggest modern global mobilization in favour of a higher and more civil form of justice capable of repelling capital punishment once and for all.

The year 2014 was also a very important year in the life of the Ratification campaign as December 15th 2014 was the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the death penalty abolition treaty.

In January 2014 the World Coalition hand delivered to **Mr. Ivan Simonovic**, assistant secretary general for human rights, a letter requesting the Secretary General to highlight the Second Optional protocol to the ICCPR during the Treaty event at the UN in New York in September being the Protocol's 25th anniversary.

The World Coalition received a positive reply to its request.

The anniversary was celebrated twice by the World Coalition first at a reception held on World Day against Death Penalty on 10

October 2014 at Geneva City Hall with Human Rights Committee members organised by CCPR Centre and the World Coalition; and at a side event organised by the International Commission against Death Penalty during the Human Rights Council session on 18 June 2014.

The CCPR Centre and the World Coalition seized the opportunity of the anniversary to take stock of the functions of two of the leading actors in the global movement for ratification of the Protocol: countries engaged in bilateral and multilateral advocacy towards non-states parties, notably the group of "Friends of the Protocol" and the Human Rights Committee, which has an important potential to recommend ratification to non-states parties.

An event was organized with these two bodies on December 15th in order to:

- To take stock of the engagement of the group of friends in the campaign, and share good practices
- To identify new members in the **Africa and Asia-Pacific regions (e.g. Benin, Gabon, Mongolia, etc.)** and agree on how to best involve them in the campaign
- To define a renewed plan of action for the "Friends of the Protocol" group
- To take stock of Human Rights Committee recommendations related to death penalty and the Protocol, in both views on individual complaints and concluding observations on state reviews
- To identify areas of engagement of the Human Rights Committee in the global campaign for the Second Optional Protocol.

The conclusions of the workshops helped drafting the 3rd internal evaluation of the ratification campaign entitled: **"5 years on: results, best practices and strategy"**.

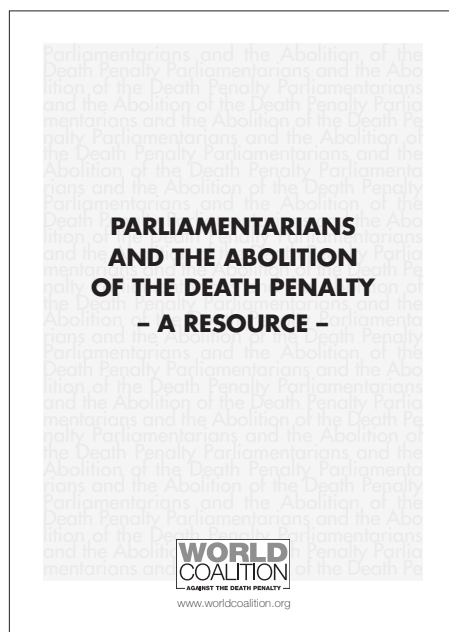
Three states ratified the treaty in 2014 (**El Salvador, Gabon & Poland**), bringing the total number of States parties to 81

In 2014 the work with parliamentarians that several members have already begun

was pushed even further thanks to the **creation of a global platform for parliamentarians against the death penalty** which was announced in Sierra Leone during the Hands off Cain conference by the British All Party Parliamentary Group and the Parliamentarians for Global Action.

The Global Parliamentary Platform for the abolition of the death penalty aims to support, enhance and maximise the impact of the individual initiatives of parliamentarians worldwide on the abolition of the death penalty, as well as to launch and coordinate targeted campaigns in selected countries.

In support of its members efforts the World Coalition launched a resource aimed at supporting the work of parliamentarians towards abolition of the death penalty in their country and worldwide at a reception on the eve of Parlaimentains for Global



Action's 36th Annual Forum held in Rabat (Morocco) on December 4-5 2014 in collaboration with both PGA and Ensemble contre la peine de mort.

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

As far as the website is concerned the World Coalition improved its resource cen-

tre in order to make it more user friendly. For the database throughout the year, Northwestern University continued to implement and refine its methodology for updating and now almost 75% of the contents of the database have been updated or are in the final stage of revision.

The researchers also started conducting a daily analysis of all the executions that take place in all retentionist states of the world. With the information gathered from the press, advocacy and human rights organisations, and contacts in the field, they account for all known executions and they upload these updated data every week.

The Death Penalty Worldwide database is the only instrument in the world to make this information available in real time. By comparing their data with other organizations such as Amnesty International, which publishes this information once a year, they found that, apart from some countries whose judicial systems are protected by secrecy, such as **Vietnam or Yemen**, their ongoing census was highly reliable.

Another central goal during this year was to improve and perfect the quality of research by identifying new sources, more complete or more recent.



CONCLUSIONS

Global momentum has continued to build toward complete abolition, and many countries retaining the death penalty have either effectively abolished it in practice or restricted its use to only certain crimes or certain categories of individuals.

In the last couple of years, however, the trend towards abolition has slowed down and the abolitionist community has experienced some serious setbacks, such as the end of the long-lasting moratoria on executions as in the Gambia, Nigeria, Pakistan and India.

These setbacks remind us that work remains to be done to end the death penalty and should encourage the abolitionist community to elaborate new strategies to face the challenges ahead.

In 2014 the World Coalition underwent an internal evaluation to learn from the past and to understand the needs of its growing membership, in order to develop new strategies and provide members with the appropriate support.

In practice, the objectives of this evaluation were to:

- clarify the needs of the members and their expectations regarding the World Coalition;
- define the role of the World Coalition on the international scene in the mid-term; and
- identify priorities in terms of growth in membership and activities.

The answers submitted by members to the question *“In your opinion, what should be the priorities of tomorrow’s World Coalition?”* helped the Secretariat to identify priorities for the next few years in terms of support for members.

Starting from the results obtained in 2014 the World Coalition has drafted a new strategy for the next four years.



www.worldcoalition.org

World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, an alliance of more than 160 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.

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