WORLD DAY AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

TEACH ABOLITION

10 OCTOBER 2009

Seventh Edition





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10 OCTOBER 2010 - 7TH EDITION

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP) was created in 2002 to reinforce the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty.

It brings together 108 NGOs, bar associations, trade unions and public bodies that are active across the world to support the abolition of the death penalty.

The World Coalition endeavours to strengthen international action in the fight against the death penalty, lead and coordinate international action (particularly lobbying), bring together new abolitionists and increase its influence in countries where capital punishment still exists as part of national legislation.

It helps creating national and regional coalitions and organizing worldwide events.

In 2003, the WCADP made 10 October the World Day Against the Death Penalty.



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World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

3, rue Paul Vaillant Couturier ● 92320 Chatillon – France Tél. : + 33 1 57 63 03 57

contact@worldcoalition.org • www.worldcoalition.org

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[1] A World Day to "Teach Abolition"



The Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty organised 4 days of workshops on "Teaching abolition" in Taipei.



In 2003 the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty made 10 October the World Day Against the Death Penalty. In 2007 it was officially recognized as the "European Day Against the Death Penalty".

This initiative aimed to encourage the organisation of different events in as many countries as possible and encourage reflection about abolition of the death penalty across the world.

Since then, this event has been a growing success, contributing to strengthening ties in the world abolitionist network.

In previous years local initiatives have been launched across the world: 2003 was celebrated in 63 countries with 188 initiatives to reach more than 400 initiatives in 2006 and 2007.

Furthermore, every year has been marked by the launch of an appeal or a petition. In 2005 42,000 signatures were received and more than 100,000 in 2009.

Since 2005 a theme has been chosen to celebrate this event in order to attract attention and motivate initiatives across the world. The first theme chosen was abolition of the death penalty in Africa. In 2005 only 12 countries African nations had abolished the

death penalty, 21 maintained it and 20 had not executed prisoners sentenced to death for more than ten years.

2006 was devoted to failures of justice: discrimination, execution of vulnerable groups, the execution of the innocent and unfair trials.

All these examples of failures of the justice system were illustrated by individual cases, seeking to raise awareness among the population and therefore encourage signature of petitions and mobilisation.

The following year the World Coalition decided to encourage an international mobilisation in favour of the resolution calling for the establishment of a global moratorium on the death penalty at the 62nd session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Then, in 2008, it was Asia's turn, the continent which has the greatest number of executions in the world.

Finally, in 2009 the members of the World Coalition wanted to underline the importance of education in order to change public opinion on the death penalty: "Teaching Abolition" was the theme chosen. The particularity of that year was the launch of a campaign to go beyond the framework of the World Day and be developed thanks to different contributions in the construction of a Teaching Guide.

The death penalty around the world: 2009 Facts and Figures

The facts and figures presented below are taken from various reports by Amnesty International from 2008 and 2009 unless otherwise specified. Amnesty International, Hands off Cain, Human Rights Watch and Stop Child Executions, quoted below, are members of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

Abolitionist and Non- Abolitionist countries

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

- 95 countries have abolished the death penalty for all crimes;
- 9 countries have abolished the death penalty for all crimes except extraordinary crimes such as those committed during times of war;
- 35 countries are de facto abolitionist: the death penalty is still provided for in their legislation but no executions have been carried out for at least ten years.

Therefore, 139 countries have abolished the death penalty de jure or de facto.

However, 58 countries and territories still uphold the death penalty and use this punishment, and 18 countries carried out executions in 2009.

WHY FIGHT FOR THE GLOBAL ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY?

• The death penalty is irrevocable

no justice system is safe from judicial errors and innocent people are likely to be executed;

• The death penalty is inefficient

it has never been shown to deter crimes more effectively than other punishments.

• The death penalty is unfair

the death penalty is discriminatory and is often used disproportionately against the poor, the mentally ill and those discriminated against for reasons of sexual orientation or from racial, ethnic and religious minorities;

• The death penalty is a cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment

waiting on death row inflicts extreme psychological suffering and execution is a physical and mental assault;

• The death penalty is applied overwhelmingly in violation of international standards

it breaches the principles of the 1948 Universal Declaration on Human Rights, which states that everyone has the right to life and that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. It is also in contradiction with the international trend towards abolition recognized by a vote at the United Nations General Assembly calling for the establishment of a universal moratorium on the use of death penalty (Resolution 62/149 adopted on 18 December 2007 and Resolution 63/168 adopted on 18 December 2008).

Progress Made Towards World Abolition of the Death Penalty

Since 1990 more than 56 countries have abolished capital punishment for all crimes: in Africa (recent examples include Burundi and Togo); the Americas (Mexico, Paraguay, and Argentina); Asia-Pacific (Bhutan, the

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Turkey).

Philippines, Samoa, Kirghizstan, and Uzbekistan); and Europe (Armenia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Cyprus, Montenegro, and

Death Sentences and **Executions**

During 2009 at least 714 prisoners were executed in 18 countries but this figure does not take into account the thousands of executions which occurred in China as that country does not communicate figures on the death penalty. In the same year at least 2001 individuals were sentenced to death in 56 countries. These figures reflect only the cases of which Amnesty International are aware and are undoubtly conservative estimates. The death penalty remains a State secret in many countries.

• In Asia : China still leading the pack

This year, as in previous years, countries on the Asian continent executed and sentenced to death more individuals than others countries across the world.

In China official national statistics on the use of capital punishment remain a State secret. It is therefore very difficult to have real and reliable information on the situation of the death penalty in the country. Amnesty International indicates however that in China executions can be counted by the thousands and 68 offences are punishale by death.

Mongolia, Indonesia and Pakistan did not carry out any executions in 2009, although over the last few years the three countries had executed prisoners every year. In January 2010 Mongolia declared an official moratorium on executions.

• Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia

According to the information gathered by Amnesty International, Iran executed at least 388 individuals in 2009, including 112 during the period between the presidential elections and the inauguration of the current President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. These figures put Iran in second place in terms of executions around the world.

Hands off Cain recorded 29 executions in 2008 in Iraq. In 2009 the number of individuals executed in the country rose to 120 according to Amnesty International, 4 times more than the previous year. At least a thousand people are allegedly on death row in Iraq.

Saudi Arabia executed fewer prisoners compared to 2008 but the number of executions remains very high: at least 69 individuals have been executed.

• The United States

In the United States in 2009 11 states carried out executions, ending the life of 52 individuals – the highest number for the last three years. Texas, with 24 executions, is the state which executes the most prisoners in the United States, followed by Alabama (6 executions).

Although the figure remains very high, the country is showing increasing signs of opposition to capital punishment. The state of New Mexico abolished the death penalty on 1 March 2009, becoming the 15th abolitionist state in the United States.

International Instruments Supporting Abolition

One important aspect of the progress which has been made recently is the adoption of international treaties through which States pledge not to use capital punishment. Currently, there are four such treaties:

- Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and has been ratified by 72 states. Three other countries have signed the Protocol, thereby signalling their intention to become party to this instrument at a later date.
- Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights on the abolition of the death penalty, which has been ratified by eleven states on the American continent.
- Protocol N° 6 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (European Human Rights convention) on the abolition of the death penalty, which has been ratified by 46 European states and signed by one other.
- **Protocol 13 to the European Human Rights Convention**, concerning the abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances, which has been ratified by 42 European states and signed by 3 others.

In addition to these treaties, several resolutions adopted over the last 10 years at the General Assembly of the United Nations refer to the issue of the death penalty. Among the most recent ones, the Resolution 62/149 on a moratorium the use of the death penalty adopted on 18 December 2007 calls upon all States that still maintain the death penalty to progressively restrict the use of the death penalty, to reduce the number of offences for which it may be imposed and to establish a moratorium on executions with view to abolishing the death penalty.

This resolution was opposed by several retentionist states in a statement of dissociation initiated by Singapore. Its opponents insist on the fact that the death penalty is not a matter of international law, but of national law.

In December 2008, a new resolution reaffirming Resolution 62/149 on the moratorium on the use of the death penalty was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The Resolutions of the General Assembly are not legally binding but they have a very great symbolic significance. They represent the legitimate expression of the majority of member states of the United Nations and have considerable moral force.

They attest to a global trend towards abolition. The next United Nations General Assembly vote on the Resolution will take place during the 65th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations at the end of 2010.

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The 7th World Day: Teaching Abolition

For the 7th World Day Against the Death Penalty, the World Coalition wanted to educate citizens across the world, and particularly the youth, on the abolition of the death penalty. This responds to the conviction that future progress will mainly depend on the education future generations will receive as they are tomorrow's citizens, politicians, defendants, judges and lawyers.

The world's future is in their hands and it is up to each of them as adults to join the abolitionist family.

By encouraging debates on the death penalty, the members of the World Coalition would like students to understand the state of the world they are living in: the severity, and sometimes cruelty, but also the beauty of the human rights ideal.



Légende sur la Belgique

For this World Day the World Coalition also wanted to use all its strength to end the execution of juveniles at the time of the crime of which they are accused around the world. This ban is inscribed in various treaties. This demand coincided with the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Use of the Death Penalty Against Juvenile Offenders

International human rights treaties forbid the use of capital punishment for all those under 18 at the time of the crime of which they are accused. This ban is inscribed in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the American Convention on Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The 93 countries which still uphold capital punishment for some crimes expressly forbid the execution of juvenile offenders in their legislation.

Until 1990, several countries applied the death penalty to juvenile offenders: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Yemen, Sudan and the United States.

Since then, progress has been made and the world is leaning towards abolition. However, a small number of countries continue to execute juvenile delinquents. According to

Human Rights Watch, between January 2005 and August 2008, in 5 countries (Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Yemen and Sudan) 32 juvenile offenders were executed. According to Amnesty International, at least seven juvenile offenders were executed in 2009: two in Saudi Arabia and five in Iran.

The Death Penalty Against Juvenile Offenders and the Arab Charter

LThe Council of the League of the Arab States adopted, on 14 September, 1994, the Arab Charter on Human Rights. It is a regional charter on human rights that came into force in March 2008. It is the most recent instrument and the only one which restricts the death penalty in the region.

However, in its 7th article, the Charter leaves to the States' internal legislations the possibility of applying capital punishment to the persons under 18 years of age:

"Sentence of death shall not be imposed on persons under 18 years of age, unless otherwise stipulated in the laws in force at the time of the commission of the crime." In the case of retentionist countries that use Sharia law as the basis of their legal system, adulthood is reached at the age of puberty. Puberty will thus be defined by physical criteria. Consequently, juvenile offenders at the time of the crime of which they are accused can be executed.

The countries in which Sharia law exists are: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman, Yemen, Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Libya. Furthermore, Sharia law was introduced in the legislation of some countries during the 20th century: Sudan, Egypt, some states of the North of Nigeria, and Somalia.

Among the countries mentioned above, four still execute juveniles at the time of the crime of which they are accused.

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For the 2009 World Day the WCADP called for an end to the execution of juveniles throughout the world through a petition addressed to the governments of four countries:

- Saudi Arabia.
- Iran,
- Sudan
- Yemen.

These are the four countries which continue to execute and sentence juvenile offenders to death, despite having signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Saudi Arabia is one of the countries which execute the most in the world, both in absolute terms and as a percentage of its population. Human rights organisations criticise the absence of legal guarantees surrounding trials. The assistance of a lawyer before the trial and legal representation during the trial are regularly denied to the accused.

[Crimes punishable by death]

Saudi Arabia's interpretation of Islamic Law is rigid and it prescribes the death penalty for homicide, rape, armed robbery, drug trafficking, witchcraft, adultery, sodomy, homosexuality, sabotage and apostasy (renouncing Islam).

Many executions are performed for homicides and rapes but many nonviolent offences are also punished by decapitation: this is the case for apostasy, witchcraft and drugs-related offences

[Status of the death penalty with regard to international law]

As in 2007, Saudi Arabia voted against the UN Resolution of 18 December 2008 calling for a moratorium on application of the death penalty.

Saudi Arabia is a signatory to the verbal note sent to the UN Secretary General in January 2008. That note reaffirmed those States' refusal to institute a moratorium on executions with a view to abolition of the death penalty.

Saudi Arabia ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1996.

[Methods of execution]

Executions are usually carried out by decapitation, occasionally in public. According to Islamic law, married individuals sentenced for adultery must be stoned.

The law sets out that the stones must not be too large so that suffering is greater and death occurs more slowly. The bodies of stoned individuals, exclusively women, are sometimes then crucified.

[Figures]

Between 1980 and 2008: approximately 2000 executions, with a "record" of 191 executions in 1995.

In 2009: more than 69 executions.

2 juveniles at the time of the crime were executed in 2007 and 2 more in the first guarter of 2009.

[Execution of juveniles]

Saudi Arabia does not have a law differentiating punishments for juveniles and those for adults in criminal matters.

In theory, juveniles can be treated as adults in cases where they face death penalty. Judges have thus broad discretion in determining what acts are crimes and in determining sentences. In addition, no law requires them to assess a child on his or her characteristics at the time of the offence

committed and not at the time of the judgement or its execution.

In practice, judges most often determine the age of penal responsibility with regard to physical characteristics.

[Country specificities]

The Saudi Government does not publish an official interpretation of Islamic Law, the Penal Code or precise interpretive legal texts specifying the definition of acts constituting criminal offences.

Judges therefore have a greater margin to determine which acts are crimes and the verdict and applicable sentences. Courts often impose the death penalty for murder and homicide but they can also impose it discriminatorily for any other crime.

Saudi justice is particularly intransigent with regard to overseas workers and particularly those from poor countries in the Middle East, Africa and Asia. Nearly two thirds of those executed are foreigners, even though they only represent a quarter of the Saudi population.

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The Four targeted Countries

RAN

Since the creation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in 1979, thousands of prisoners have been executed, many following summary and unfair trials, particularly during political events such as the demonstrations which followed the presidential elections in 2009. Amnesty International has recorded a number of executions of juvenile offenders since 1990.

[Crimes punishable by death]

The Iranian legal system is based on Islamic principles. Iran provides for the death penalty for homicide, armed theft, blasphemy, apostasy, conspiring against the government, adultery, prostitution, homosexuality, drugs-related offences (possession of more than 30 grams of heroin and 5 kilos of opium).

According to the same authorities, who do not provide official statistics, many executions in Iran are related to drugs offences but human rights observers estimate that many individuals executed for common crimes and particularly drugs offences are actually political opponents.

[Status of the death penalty with regard to international law]

As in 2007, Iran voted against the UN Resolution of 18 December 2008 calling for a moratorium on the application of the death penalty.

Iran is a signatory to the verbal note sent to the UN Secretary General in January 2008. That note reaffirmed those States' refusal to institute a moratorium on executions with a view to abolition of the death penalty.

Iran ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1994.

[Methods of execution]

Executions are usually carried out by hanging but also sometimes stoning. In this case, the prisoner is covered from head to foot in white clothing and buried (women up to their armpits and men up to their waists). A load of stones is delivered to the execution location and the civil servants in charge (sometimes in certain cases citizens authorised by the authorities) carry out the execution.

Stoning is mainly used for women and is criticized within the country itself. According to the National Council for Iranian Resistance, 25 individuals, including 17 women, were sentenced to stoning when Mohamad Khatami took over the presidency in 1997.

[Figures]

Entre 2000 et 2008 : environ 2 000

exécutions

En 2009: 388 exécutions

Entre 1999 et 2009 : 42 mineurs ont été

exécutés.

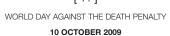
[Execution of juveniles]

Iran ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1994, a convention which stipulates in Article 37 a) that "neither capital punishment nor life imprisonment without possibility of release shall be imposed for offences committed by persons below eighteen years of age" The country therefore leaves those who were juveniles at the time of the crime in prison until they turn 18

According to Islamic law, the parents of the victim of a crime can demand compensation in the form of money ("blood money"), pardon the author of the crime or support the execution of the sentence. Iranian law sets out that blood money from a woman is worth half that from a man. According to Iranian law, the parents or children of a victim must request the death penalty for the prisoner to be executed.

In 2007 eight juveniles were executed in Iran. In July 2008 Amnesty International and nine other organisations published a public statement demanding an end to the execution of juveniles and stoning. Despite this international pressure, the Iranian authorities again executed 8 juveniles in 2008 and 5 in 2009, in direct violation of international standards and particularly Article 6(5) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

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The Four

targeted

Countries



A civil war has ravaged the country for twenty years since the 1980s, leading to 2 million victims. In 2003 a new war broke out in the Darfur region bordering Chad which has already led to 10,000 victims and a million refugees. Human Rights Watch has accused the Sudanese government of sending its troops to support the Arab militia in Darfur against the ethnic Fur population.

On the basis of the law on the state of emergency of 1998, the government has introduced in the west of the country special courts composed of two military judges and one civilian judgeto handle cases of banditry. The accused, who do not have adequate legal defence, have a week to appeal to the district court. However, cases of individuals executed following sentencing have been reported.

[Offences subject to capital punishment]

The interim Sudanese constitution, adopted in July 2005, provides for the death penalty for qisas, damage to morals, hadd and "extremely serious" crimes which allow its application to juveniles under 18. The text stipulates that a juvenile at the time of the crime of which he is accused must not be sentenced to death, except for cases of hadd. These crimes are punished with sentences fixed according to the Koran. In 2005 at least two juveniles were executed at Khartoum prison.

[Status of the death penalty with regard to international law]

Comme en 2007, le Soudan a voté contre la Résolution des Nations unies du 18 décembre 2008, appelant à un moratoire sur l'application de la peine de mort.

Le Soudan est signataire des notes verbales adressées au Secrétaire général des Nations unies en ianvier 2008. Cette note réaffirme le refus de ces États d'instituer un moratoire sur les exécutions en vue de l'abolition de la peine de mort.

Le Soudan a ratifié la Con aux droits de l'enfant en 19

Méthodes d'exécution Les exécutions se font le pl

pendaison, en public.

Chiffres

En 2007: 7 exécutions et au moins 3 mineurs ont été condamnés à mort

En 2008: au moins 1 exécution et 60 condamnations à mort dont 2 mineurs

En 2009 : 4 mineurs étaient en cours de jugement

Les mineurs face à la peine de mort]

MANQUE LA TRADUC

Le Soudan a ratifié la Convention sur les droits de l'Enfant en 1990.

Cette Convention stipule à son article 37, (point a), que « [ni] la peine capitale ni l'emprisonnement à vie sans possibilité de libération ne doivent être prononcés pour les infractions commises par des personnes âgées de moins de dix-huit ans ».

La loi sur les enfants de 2004 prévoit que les cours ne doivent jamais appliquer la peine de mort et fixe un maximum de 10

> de 15 à 18 ans. -un enfant est ins de 18 ans. ent précise aue maiorité ».

is un centre de

Ceci laisse la possibilité qu'une personne de moins de 18 ans soit condamnée à mort. L'article 9 du Code pénal de 1991 lie la responsabilité pénale à la puberté et l'article 3 définit un adulte comme « une personne qui a atteint l'âge 15 ans et de la puberté (...) ou qui a atteint l'âge de 18 ans, même si c'est sans avoir atteint la puberté ».

La Constitution par intérim de 2005 permet l'application de la peine de mort pour les enfants de moins de 18 ans dans les cas dits de aisas et hadd.

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The Four

targeted

Countries



On 22 May 1990 the Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen) and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen) united to form a single State, the Republic of Yemen.

Despite being officially allied to the West and the establishment of international cooperation to monitor its coastline, the country remains unstable.

[Crimes punishable by death]

In Yemen the death penalty is mentioned in 43 articles which concern 315 different crimes relating to murder, acts of terrorism, rape, sexual crimes, acts "contrary" to Islam and the independence of the country.

In 3 August 1998 a presidential decree extended the death penalty to members of groups which carry out theft and robbery as well as pillaging of public or private property. The death penalty may also be applied to kidnappers.

[Status of the death penalty with regard to international lawl

As in 2007, Yemen voted against the UN Resolution of 18 December 2008 calling for a moratorium on application of the death penalty.

Yemen is a signatory to the verbal note sent to the UN Secretary General in January 2008. That note reaffirmed those States' refusal to institute a moratorium on executions with a view to abolition of the death penalty.

Yemen ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991.

[Methods of execution]

Executions are generally carried out by hanging in public.

Adultery by married individuals is punished by stoning. All execution orders must be ratified by the president and the execution is carried out in public

[Figures]

Between 2001 and 2005: 362 executions

In 2006: at least 30 individuals were executed and several hundred prisoners remain under threat of capital punishment.

In January 2007: nine juveniles sentenced to death were enclosed in Yemeni prisons.

In 2009: at least 30 executions and a hundred prisoners sentenced to death are still on death row.

[Execution of minors]

In Yemen 109 children are accused of having committed murders and juveniles from 16 to 18 are enclosed with adult detainees. In 2007 a juvenile was executed.

However, the country ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991. This Convention stipulates in Article 37 a) that " neither capital punishment nor life imprisonment without possibility of release shall be imposed for offences committed by persons below eighteen years of age"

The new Penal Code raised the minimum age at which an individual may be sentenced to death to 18. Yemen was one of the rare countries to execute juveniles in the 1990s (including a 13-year-old boy in 1993).

[Country specificities]

There is still a long way to go before political reform reduces the number of crimes punishable by the death penalty. Political prisoners are still on death row according to the Yemeni Coalition.

In Yemen the debate is still timid and political power is not demonstrating an openminded attitude to the issue and abolitionist action, which is not without risk for the safety of those involved, is only just emerging.

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[2] The Actions Of The World Coalition



Sit-in in Rabat in front of the Parliament

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This year, as in previous years, the World Coalition took action. Hundreds of initiatives have been taken by its members, characterised by the use of teaching tools like the Pedagogical Guide and the Capital Punishment Curriculum launched for the 2009 World Day. As for previous world days, the Coalition launched a world petition.

Finally, it also participated in drawing up the eighth quinquennial report on capital punishment and the implementation of the safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty.

A Petition to End Juvenile Executions throughout the World

For the 2009 World Day, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty launched a petition calling for a halt to the execution of juveniles around the world, addressed at the Saudi, Iranian, Sudanese and Yemeni governments. This petition brought together more than one hundred thousand signatures around the world..

Translated into ten languages (English, French, Italian, German, Spanish, Japanese, traditional and simplified Chinese, Arabic and Farsi) and opened for signature on the World Coalition's

APPEAL FOR AN END TO EXECUTIONS OF JUVENILES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

"In 2007, eleven juveniles (persons under 18 at the time of the crime for which they were sentenced to death) were executed: eight in Iran, two in Saudi Arabia and one in Yemen. In 2008, at least 8 juveniles were executed in Iran according to Amnesty International and at least 140 others were believed to be on death row, according to Stop Child Executions. For the first semester of 2009, at least five juveniles have been executed: three in Iran and two in Saudi Arabia.

In Sudan, four 17 year olds are currently reported to be on trial for alleged participation in the Khartoum attacks, while one 17 year old and one reported 16 year old were sentenced to death in July and August 2008, according to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Sudan. According to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, "neither capital punishment nor life imprisonment without possibility of release shall be imposed for offences committed by persons below eighteen years of age" (art.37)

In the 20th anniversary year of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and on the 7th World Day Against the Death Penalty, we, the undersigned, call on the authorities in Iran, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen to thoroughly respect and implement the international commitments they already endorsed and to end all executions of juveniles."



The delegation from the World Coalition before handing in the petitions to the embassies of the four target countries..

website, the petition was not only relayed by many players and members of the Coalition but also by a significant number of individuals and bloggers. Thanks to such widespread circulation, the World Coalition gathered 106,550 signatures in a few months.

A World Coalition Against the Death Penalty delegation went to the embassies of the four countries that still execute juvenile offenders on the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on 20 November 2009. The delegation was composed of members from ACAT France, ECPM, FIACAT and the Texas Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

Although the diplomatic representatives from Sudan and Yemen received the Coalition and the package containing a quarter of the petitions each, the Embassy of Iran rejected our request to visit.

The embassy of Saudi Arabia accepted to receive the signed petitions but refused to meet the delegation.

COUNTRY	TOTAL PETITIONS
Germany	6 896
Australia	10 826
Austria	2 448
Belgium	2 437
Burkina Faso	483
Canada	1 653
Spain	25 681
France	31 481
Hong Kong	99
IRAQ	1
Italy	7 711
Japan	272
Luxembourg	400
Madagascar	314
Monaco	1
Mongolia	72
Norway	1
Pakistan	234
Paraguay	122
The Netherlands	213
Philippines	170
Portugal	70
DR Congo	2 430
United Kingdom	941
Switzerland	440
Suisse	7 244
Taiwan	611
Thaïland	452
Togo	105
USA	27
World Coalition website	1 368
International	1 374
Total	106 550

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Upon delivery of the petitions and for the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the World Coalition published a press release.

The World Coalition's Executive Secretariat then sent a parcel to the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The parcel contained a quarter of the petitions and a letter explaining the approach followed and give some facts and figures on the death penalty, inparticularly on the execution of juveniles.

The Contribution of the World Coalition to the 8th Quinquenial Report

The World Coalition was requested by the commission of the UN Office Against Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on the prevention of crime and penal justice to draw up the 8th quinquenial report of the UN Secretary General on capital punishment which will be presented at the 19th session of the Commission in Vienna, Austria from 17 to 21 May 2010.

In particular, the World Coalition sent information concerning the four countries targeted in the petition. The ECOSOC resolution (UN Economic and Social Council) of 25 May 1984, to implement the safeguards

and further strengthen the protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty, forbidding the execution of juveniles: "Establishing a maximum age beyond which a person may not be sentenced to death or executed".



LAUNCH OF THE CAMPAIGN TO RATIFY THE UN PROTOCOL ON ABOLITION

A few days after the World Day, on 21 October 2009, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty officially launched the campaign to ratify the UN Protocol on abolition. This treaty establishes that "No person under the jurisdiction of a State party to this Protocol shall be executed" (Article 1.1) and it forbids any possibility of reintroducing the death penalty in a country which has signed the Protocol. Kirghizstan, one of the countries targeted in this campaign, voted for a law to ratify the Protocol on 11 February 2010. Every ratification of this treaty strengthens the world movement in support of abolition.

Pedagogical Tools to "Teach abolition"

The 2009 World Day was characterised by a campaign aiming to encourage a sustainable project, to teach young people to build a world without the death penalty.

To this end, a pedagogical guide and a capital punishment curriculum were created.



Légende à placer

The Pedagogical Guide

The Pedagogical Guide is a manual for teachers of students aged 14 to 18 to propose activities on abolitionist arguments. It was launched in view of the celebrations on 10 October.

In this guide you will find the following themes:

- The Death Penalty and International Law
- Innocence and Legal Errors
- The Death Penalty and Human Rights
- Conditions of Detention
- The Cost of the Death Penalty

This guide seeks to raise awareness among pupils about the death penalty so that they acquire fundamental knowledge and that they understand why the death penalty is an attack on human rights.

On the World Coalition's website the Pedagogical Guide, translated into English, French, Spanish, Italian, Russian and Chinese (traditional and simplified), was downloaded 1428 times. This shows the success of this tool, used not only by organisations, institutions and NGOs but also by individuals.

This Pedagogical Guide will be developed and regularly improved to make it an essential tool to change public opion particularly in retentionist countries. It could subsequently be divided into sections by world regions.

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A Capital Punishment Curriculum has been made available in English and Chinese on the World Coalition website. It was mainly designed to be used in US law schools with an emphasis on American law, but it is just as instructive in other contexts.

The main goals of this curriculum are:

- Provide information about the application of the death penalty in the U.S. and internationally
- Assist in developing an informed position on capital punishment
- Enhance critical thinking, writing, and other communication skills
- Facilitate critical consumption of published research
- Stimulate intellectual curiosity about the criminal justice system and its significance in human rights
- Produce a better understanding of capital punishment in society

The World Coalition wants this curriculum to encourage the creation of similar courses for other countries and other laws concerning the death penalty.

Translated into French, English, Italian, Spanish, simplified Chinese, traditional Chinese and Russian, this teaching tool could be downloaded from the Coalition's website. It was very successful with 1,428 downloads in the various languages.

Information and mobilisation tools

As in previous years, the World Coalition made information and mobilisation tools available for its members, the media and any individual wanting to participate in the 2009 World Day. In order to inform, raise awareness and encourage local action in as many countries as possible, and particularly in States which still apply the death penalty.

Web

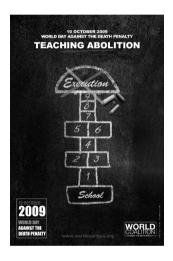
The World Day page on the Coalition's website was consulted more than 30,000 times. This figure constitutes a real record compared to previous years, thereby demonstrating the importance of the theme chosen by the World Coalition for the campaign that year. Children and their education as future abolitionist and the execution of juveniles strongly affected the general public.

The Petition

The petition was opened for signature on the World Coalition's website. The members and sympathisers were invited to put links to the online petition from their own websites and blogs. It could also be printed from the World Coalition's website to facilitate campaigns for signatures carried out by members on the World Day.

The Poster

2,000 copies of the poster were printed in French and English, and were given to event organisers. Copies could be ordered for free from the World Coalition's Executive Secretariat. It was also available as a printable version on the website and upon request from the media and interested individuals...



The Mobilisation Kit

Designed to help organise events, it gave examples of action, provided information onpast World Days and their chosen themes. It also provided the contact details of the WCADP members by country.

Facts and figures about the death penalty

This information document on the application of the death penalty around the world for 2008 could be downloaded and consulted online.

Country Profiles

These sheets summed up the history of the death penalty in each targeted country of the campaign and established the situation in terms of ratification of international treaties, latest executions and specificities of each country in 2008..

Web Banner

This was a flash animation available in French and English to illustrate the websites of members and partners of the World Coalition. This web banner announcing the World Day Against the Death Penalty could be downloaded for display on any website with a link to the WCADP's website.

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[**3**] The initiatives



Duel of defences against the death penalty in Paris

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In total

142 initiatives were reported
 in 33 countries
 in 5 continents.

It is a drop in the number
 of initiatives
 compared to the year
 before.

The drop in that year can be explained in part by the fact that it was easier to mobilise "against the execution of juveniles around the world" rather than in support of teaching abolition as is indicated by the number of signatures gathered for the petition this year. On the other hand, it can also be explained by the will of the World Coalition to launch a sustainable campaign. The project "Teaching abolition" aims to develop and exceed the framework of the World Day. The confirmation of the Pedagocical Guide as a consultable teaching tool and available to all can only be analysed in the long-term.

Conversely, the initiatives this year arise from a commitment which was particularly ambitious of certain members.

The examples below are only a selection from the list of events organised for the World Day and of which the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty is aware.

The full list can be consulted in the Appendix

The World Takes Action

Mobilization is still strong in Europe, although Europeans are not directly concerned. The World Day was widely followed by regional institutions, professional organisations and NGOs.

In Africa, retentionists and abolitionists were also mobilised. In Togo and Burundi, new abolitionists on the continent, the campaign for this year was supported by organisations working in schools to "Teach abolition". Actions were carried out in schools by organisations and individuals across the African continent, thereby demonstrating the importance of the World Day 2009 message.

Internal demands overtook the theme of the World Coalition's campaign in Asia where the number of executions per year remains the highest. The various initiatives were more focused on prisoners on death row as is the case in India and Singapore. Conversely, Taiwan experienced strong mobilisation, carrying out workshops on the "Teaching abolition" project.

ASIA-PACIFIC

(15 ACTIONS IN 9 COUNTRIES)

Asia Pacific Youth Network (APYN): Quiz on the death penalty

This network of young people has more than 5,000 members from 24 countries in Asia. It aims to connect all young people who want to defend human rights.

For the World Day the young people from the APYN network circulated the petition on Facebook against the execution of juveniles across the world and the Quiz on the death penalty they had created.

India: seminar on the death penalty

Lawyers for Human Rights International organised a seminar on the death penalty, bringing together more than 200 people and benefiting from media coverage. For the World Day this organisation also encouraged the signing of petitions to free prisoners sentenced to death in India.

Taiwan: Workshops on "Teaching abolition"

For four days and at the initiative of the Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty (TAEDP), workshops on the theme for the World Day, "Teaching abolition", were held.

The manual created by the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty were widely used during these workshops.

The event was covered by the media, particularly after the press conference which was held on 10 October 2009.



Conference organized by Lawyers for Human Rights in India

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THE AMERICAS

(24 ACTIONS IN 5 COUNTRIES)

The United States: Launch of a teaching tools kit

Advocates for Human Rights launched its tool kit on the death penalty in the United States and the rest of the world.

This kit provides information, stories and teaching material on the reality of the death penalty. It can be downloaded for free on their website:

http://www.mnadvocates.org

"TEACH-IN" at St-Thomas University in Houston

Still within the theme of the 2009 World Day, the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty organised a "Teach-in" at St-Thomas University in Houston.

This event was accompanied by a presentation by defence lawyer Paul Nugent on the problems of criminal justice in Texas which may lead to the sentencing of an innocent person.

Porto Rico: Conference on the death penalty

At the initiative of the Puerto Rican Bar Association, this activity brought together five short presentations on various subjects connected to the death penalty.

After each presentation a troubadour (a traditional Puerto Rican singer) improvised a song summing up the issues raised.

THE ARAB WORLD

WORLD (10 ACTIONS IN 3 COUNTRIES)

Morocco: Sit-in in front of the Parliament in Casablanca

To celebrate the World Day, the Moroccan Coalition Against the Death Penalty organised a press conference on 7 October 2009 to announce the protest memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister, the Justice Minister, the President of the Chamber of Representatives and the President of the Chamber of Councillors.

A delegation from the organisation then met the Prime Minister's Head of Cabinet to plead for abolition. All this action was symbolised by a sit-in in front of Parliament in Casablanca.

"Teaching abolition" workshop

Again in Morocco, the philosophy teacher Zair Tarik organised workshops on the theme "Teachingof abolition" with the help of the Pedagogical Guide created by the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

This is just one example of many different initiatives by individuals using the manual.



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SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

(26 ACTIONS IN 7 COUNTRIES)



Burkina Faso: a film, debates and a conference on the death penalty with teachers and students

The Burkina Faso section of Amnesty International organised several events in various towns in the country for the World Day. At the SIAO university centre a film followed by a debate with students was held, bringing together more than forty students. In Bobo-Dioulasso a debate was held with teachers and young people.

Concerning the execution of juveniles across the world, in a primary school in Ouagadougou, a conference brought together twenty teachers.

At the end of each event signatures were gathered for this year's petition, with a total of 483.

Niger : Round table on education

To celebrate the 7th World Day against the Death Penalty, the Syndicat National des Agents de la Formation et de l'Education du Niger (SYNAFEN), which became a member of the Coalition in 2009, organised a round table on education which brought together 60 players from Niger's civil society.

Togo: Awareness raising tour in schools

In three schools in Lomé members of the Forum Africain contre la peine de mort discussed with students the importance of universal abolition of the death penalty. They also distributed leaflets they had prepared to students in classrooms.

EUROPE

(64 INITIATIVES IN 9 COUNTRIES)

Belgium: Delivery of funeral crowns

For the World Day 2009 the Parti Centre Démocrate Humaniste organised a highly symbolic act: delivery of funeral crowns. Several MPs, including Georges Dallemagne, delivered on Saturday 10 October a funeral crown to the Chinese and American embassies as a protest against the death penalty which is still applied in those two nations.

A bouquet of flowers was also delivered to the embassy of Burundi to congratulate the country for formally abolishing the death penalty on 22 April 2009.

France: Duel of defence speeches on abolitionist arguments

Ensemble contre la peine de mort in partnership with LDH, Amnesty International France, ACAT, FIDH and Collectif Mumia Abu Jamal organised at Place de la Sorbonne in Paris a demonstration against the death penalty.

It was marked by a debating duel between two defence attorneys on abolitionist arguments and the reading of statements from juveniles sentenced to death.

Luxembourg: Strong mobilisation

ACAT and Amnesty International organised several initiatives in Luxembourg. In the cultural field, the film In Prison My Whole Life followed by a debate led by abolitionist activists. Within the framework of a night visit to the History Museum of the city of Luxembourg, a cultural event presented an exhibition in connection with the theme of the death penalty. The dancer and choreographer Dania Antinori and the percussionist Simon Stierle accompanied videos related to the theme of the death penalty.

The reference to the teaching file "Teaching abolition" was published in the Courrier de l'éducation Nationale distributed to all teachers. A bilingual summary of the file was circulated in some secondary schools.

In regards to the media, a press conference was held and a radio interview was given on the death penalty and this year's mobilisation theme.

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[**4**] Media coverage



Round table on "educating about abolition" organised in Niger by SYNAFEN

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This year, as in previous years, the media coverage of the World Day was widespread. Media outlets from a large number of countries relayed not only the initiatives carried out on 10 October but also the theme of this year's campaign and the petition to end the execution of juveniles throughout the world.

There were also a large number of articles announcing the executions and death sentences pronounced in October 2009 in Iran which led to a strong reaction in the world press.

The press review, available in the appendices, includes more than 130 articles from 31 countries from across the world.

Press review region by region

Media coverage of the World Day varies according to the region of the world, the media culture, the country's political climate and its status as regards the death penalty.

The deepest coverage ocurred in Europe in correlation with the initiatives to mark the World Day. Most of the articles in Spain, France, Italy and Switzerland, appeared in the national, regional and local press. This widespread media coverage in the countries cited is also linked to the languages in which the articles were identified: German, English, Spanish, French and Italian.

Some articles take up information from the World Coalition's website; others relay the press releases from European institutions and various members.

A large number of these articles cite the work of three organisations which are members of the World Coalition: Amnesty International, ACAT and Communita di Sant Egidio.

In Spain, for example, where the coverage was more regional than national, the articles evoke the signature of petitions on the execution of juveniles carried out by Amnesty International across the country. This directly relates to the number of signature gathered in this country which exceeded 25,000.

Over and beyond narrating events, journalists have drawn up a state of play of the death penalty in 2009 and criticised the death sentences of three political prisoners in Iran as well as the execution of a juvenile the day after the World Day Against the Death Penalty.

The largest number of press articles in Asia was gathered in the Taiwanese press. Five media outlets from that country widely covered the activities of the Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty to commemorate the World Day. These activities were rolled out over 4 days in the form of workshops on "Teaching abolition".

However, it is difficult to calculate those which were published in the various Asian languages or in other media formats (radio, television, Internet) but the scope of the campaign and the importance of the call launched suggest that the information was relayed.

In countries such as Iran and Pakistan, where media coverage is difficult because of the political climate, blogs and websites gathered information on the World Day Against the Death Penalty.

In the United States, the media coverage noted was led by abolitionists. The information relayed was mainly national and regional, evoking the situation of the death penalty in the country or more specifically the situation in Texas. Across the rest of the American continent articles tended to evoke the World Day generally and a few media outlets concentrated, as did Europe, on the case in Iran.

In Africa and the Arab world there were not many articles. Those gathered had a correlation with events, particularly in Morocco and the DRC. In Algeria the press condemned the ban by the State on organising a demonstration against the death penalty in public spaces.

Web review: coverage on the Internet

The internet has shaped itself to be an inportant medium to relay information on the campaigns of the World Coalition. Both through the freedom of the formats and the diversity of media, the place of the World Day in this space was confirmed once again this year.

The members of the World Coalition widely circulated information on their websites, the press releases were published there, the web banner was installed on their sites and they published the petition calling for a halt to the execution of juveniles across the world.

Finally, a number of blogs and personal human rights activists' sites echoed the World Day. That confirms the trend according to which the blog is imposing itself as a new media. Some of them are completely dedicated to the death penalty, such as Deathpenaltyusa.blogspot.com; others are more general such as the Countries at the crossroads governance blog or Revolutionary road blog, an Iranian blog criticising human rights violations.

This highlight of the independence and the reactivity, particularly in a country such as Iran where the freedom of the press is very restricted, is today possible thanks to the Internet through blogs allowing thousands of people not only to publish information but also to be informed.

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is an indispensable tool for coordinating action, for being informed and relaying information. Thanks to the Internet, the World Coalition network further and draw up communication techniques which will allow new members to

This year's World Day confirms it: the Internet benefit from media coverage. The social networking site Facebook, short information on Twitter, videos on Dailymotion and photos on Flickr are the new tools that the World Against the Death Penalty will develop its Coalition has decided to develop for the next World Day.

[5] Follow-up to the World Day



Demonstration against the death penalty in the United States organised in Nepal

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Since the publication of the report of the 2008 World Day the worldwide trend towards abolition has been confirmed. During the first half of 2009 the state of New Mexico, Burundi and Togo abolished the death penalty while Nicaragua ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In September 2009 Brazil ratified the treaty, making abolition of the death penalty irreversible. Regarding executions and sentencing, 2009 witnessed positive developments compared to 2008: only 18 countries executed prisoners, compared to 25 in 2008. This evolution has been strengthened by the drop in death sentences around the world.

But there is still work to be done: in contrast to the trend, Europe, which did not experience executions in 2009, reversed its progress through the execution of two individuals in Belarus in March 2010. In Asia, Taiwan broke the 5-year memorandum by executing four individuals on 30 April.

Iran maintains its second place on the podium of executions with an increase in executions in 2009. The report of the working group on the universal periodic review of Iran strongly reacted to the use of the death penalty in that country. In the recommendations to the Islamic Republic of Iran, ten concern the death penalty, and particularly the execution of juveniles.

In its report on the death penalty in 2009,

published in March 2010, Amnesty International for the first time did not provide statistics on the death penalty in China. The human rights organisation indicates however that "evidence from previous years and current sources indicates that the figure is in the thousands".

Continuing the mobilization

The abolitionist trend was confirmed with the 4th World Congress Against the Death Penalty which was held from 24 to 26 February in Geneva and brought together more than 1.500 abolitionists from around the world. The round table on the protection of vulnerable groups and the death penalty raised the problem of the execution of juveniles around the world. Juveniles, like the mentally disabled, are twice as vulnerable to the death penalty: more easily influenced, they cannot be considered responsible for their actions; when they have to deal with the legal procedure, they find it harder to defend themselves. Again on the theme of the 2009 World Day, the workshop called "Sharing Educational Tools" emphasised the manual created by the World Coalition: the Teaching

The three days of work at the Congress were concluded by a call for collaboration with the abolitionist states and international institutions.

The abolitionist struggle presents two

important challenges for the end of 2010: the World Day and the adoption of the next resolution calling for states which maintain the death penalty in their legislation to establish a moratorium on executions. This resolution will be presented at the UN General Assembly in December 2010.

World Day 2010

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty has decided to devote the 2010 World Day to the death penalty in the United States. Although the United States claims to be a democratic country which respects human rights, it is one of the rare developed countries, along with Japan, to still apply the death penalty. In 2009, 52 individuals were executed in that country, placing it 5th in the world rankings behind China, Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

For this year's World Day two themes shall be highlighted: the failure of the justice system and the non-dissuasive effect of the death penalty. Even in the safest legal systems innocent people are sentenced to death.



Manifestation contre la peine de mort au Brésil

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- [1] List of initiatives
- [2] Press releases
- [3] Press review
- [4] The members of the World Coalition

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[1] List of initiatives

The list of initiatives given below only contains those of which the World Coalition is aware.

ASIA PACIFIC

(15 INITIATIVES - 6 COUNTRIES)

Asia Pacific Youth Network (APYN)

- CIRCULATION of the petition to halt the execution of juveniles on Facebook
- QUIZ on the death penalty

[AUSTRALIA

Australians Against Capital Punishment

• DEMONSTRATION against the death penalty and DINNER in Melbourne..

Victorian Criminal Justice Coalition

- DEMONSTRATION in Melbourne against the death penalty with four speakers recognised for their struggle against the death penalty.
- PRESS ARTICLE written by Peter Norden and relayed in the Australian press.

Amnesty International Australia

• SIGNATURE of petitions for the halt of the execution of juveniles around the world.

[INDIA

Lawyers for Human rights International

- SEMINAR on the death penalty, bringing together more than 200 people.
- SIGNATURE of petitions for the release of prisoners sentenced to death.

[MONGOLIA

Amnesty International Asia Pacific

• QUIZ on the death penalty on Facebook. More than 200 people took part in the quiz.

[NEPAL

Amnesty International Nepal

- DEMONSTRATION in Kathmandu against the death penalty in the United States, bringing together hundreds of people.
- SIGNATURE of petitions to abolish the death penalty in the United States.

SINGAPORE

The Singapore Anti-Death Penalty Campaign

- FORUM against the death penalty
- SIGNATURE of a petition to say no to the execution of Yong Vui Kong

TAIWAN

The Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty

- WORKSHOPS on the theme of the World Day, "Teaching abolition" with the manual created by the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty. These workshops were rolled out over four days.
- PRESS CONFERENCE to present the "Teaching abolition" workshops.

THE AMERICAS

(24 INITIATIVES - 5 COUNTRIES)

[BRAZIL

ACAT Brazil

- PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION against the death penalty followed by an ecumenical act
- PRESS RELEASE for the World Day

[CANADA

Amnesty International Canada

- DIE-IN in Montreal on the theme of the execution of juveniles
- SIGNATURE of petitions for an end of the execution of juveniles around the world

I UNITED STATES

Advocates for Human Rights

- TEACHING TOOLS KIT on the death penalty in the United States and the rest of the world. This kit provides information, stories and teaching material on the reality of the death penalty. It can be downloaded for free.
- PRESS RELEASE for the World Day and the launch of the teaching kit.

Death Penalty Focus

- PRESS RELEASE for the World Day
- PETITION calling to "convert all death sentences into life imprisonment without the possibility of parole" which protects Californians while saving a billion dollars over 5 years.
- CONFERENCE in California on the theme: "The death penalty: why it must go". With the participation of Quin Denvir.

Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

• "TEACH-IN" at St-Thomas University in Houston. A presentation by the defence lawyer Paul Nugent on the problems of criminal justice in Texas which can lead to sentencing an innocent person to death.

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The Los Angeles County Coalition for Death Penalty Alternatives

• TRAINING OF ACTIVISTS to help halt death sentences in the county of Los Angeles. Training sessions included close work with communities, lobbying local officials and training in communication and media.

March for abolition

• "10th ANNUAL MARCH FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY". This march has taken place every October since 2000. It is a meeting of activists, parents of those on death row, community leaders, those freed from death row and all those demanding abolition of the death penalty.

Reporters sans frontières

• INTERVIEW with Robert Bryan, the lawyer for Mumia Abu-Jamal, held on death row since 1982. Robert Bryan, in charge of the journalist's defence since 2003, describes the current progression of the procedure and, more widely, the state of play of the death penalty in the United States.

M.Y.R.A Entertainment

• PREMIERE of 17 artistic videos representing nature in Texas during the official hours of each capital execution in the state between these two dates. By leaving all verbal or textual narration to one side, One After deals with the issue of capital punishment from a media point of view..

Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights et la National Alliance on Mental

- PRESS RELEASE for the World Day Against the Death Penalty
- CALLS FOR ACTION. Call to end the death penalty and a call to make treatment for mental health a world priority for the World Day Against the Death Penalty and the Day for Mental Health.

National Death row Assistance for CURE

• CONFERENCE on the death penalty and the execution of juveniles in the 4 target countries of the World Day campaign.

Texas Moratorium Network

• PETITION for a moratorium on executions.

[PARAGUAY

Amnesty International Paraguay

• SIGNATURE OF PETITIONS against the execution of juveniles across the world

PORTO RICO

Inter-American University

• PROJECTION of the documentary *Juan Melendez - 6446* and debate. Organised by the penal law programme of the Inter-American University - Campus de Ponce.

University of the Sacred Heart

 PROJECTION of the documentary Juan Melendez - 6446 and round table.
 Organised by INIPRODEH (Institute for

Organised by INIPRODEH (Institute for Research and the Promotion of Human Rights), Porto Rico's Human Rights Commission, the Legal Systems programme and the Puerto Rican Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

University of Puerto Rico

• PROJECTION of the documentary *Juan Melendez - 6446* and debate. Organised by the organisation of former students of Puerto Rico University and the artistic and cultural management programme.

Puerto Rican Bar

• CONFERENCE: this activity will bring together five short presentations on various subjects connected to the death penalty. After each presentation a troubadour (traditional Puerto Rican singer) will improvise a song summing up the issues raised.

Catholic University

• ROUND TABLE on the death penalty organised by the Commission Against the Death Penalty of the Puerto Rican Bar Association.

ARAB WORLD

(10 INITIATIVES - 3 COUNTRIES)

[ALGERIA

LAADH

- NATIONAL MEETING on the death penalty in Algiers.
- PRESS RELEASE by LAADH announcing the ban on the meeting in public areas.

[MOROCCO

Organisation marocaine pour les Droits de l'Homme

• WORKSHOPS on human rights and the death penalty in Tangier.

Coalition marocaine contre la peine de mort

- SIT–IN in front of Parliament to celebrate the World Day.
- PRESS CONFERENCE on 7 October 2009 to announce the protest memorandum addressed at the Prime Minister, the Justice Minister, the President of the Chamber of Representatives and the President of the Chamber of Councillors.
- MEETING of the members of the Moroccan Coalition with the head of the Prime Minister's cabinet.

Zair Tarik, philosophy teacher

• WORKSHOP "Teaching abolition" with the help of the Pedagogical Guide prepared by the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

[TUNISIA

Amnesty International Tunisia

- CONFERENCES: for the World Day two conferences on the theme of the death penalty were organised.
- PROJECTION of a film on the death penalty.
- Facebook EVENT against the death penalty.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

(26 INITIATIVES - 7 COUNTRIES)

[BENIN

ACAT - Benin

• PRESS CONFERENCE on the subject of the challenge of the death penalty and the need

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to remove from Benin's penal law the death penalty to remain in line with the international law instruments.

- OPEN LETTER to members of the Parliament and advocacy concerning the removal of the death penalty from national legal instruments.
- With Amnesty International Benin PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION in front of Parliament on the urgency of abolition.

ACAT-Parakou and Amnesty International Benin

- PRESS RELEASES read out on the following radio stations: Urban fm, Radio arzèkè, Radio fraternité, supported by questions from journalists.
- CONFERENCE-DEBATE: with the authorisation of the Deputy Head of the Mathieu Bouké secondary school, a group of pupils were made aware of the issue of the death penalty.

I BURKINA FASO

ACAT Burkina

- ACAT Burkina encouraged Burkina-Faso to continue its efforts with a view to definitive abolition of the death penalty
- ECUMENICAL PRAYER for a world where nothing can stand in the way of the deployment of life, where the dignity of all people is respected.
- RADIO SHOW by Lucienne Zoma from ACAT Burkina.
- PRESS RELEASE for the World Day

ACAT-Bobo Dioulasso

• POSTERS published by the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty placed in school establishments and institutions and the Philosophy Inspectorate where philosophy teachers were meeting. • DEBATE: *The death penalty, for or against?* Affected primary and secondary teachers.

Amnesty Burkina Faso

- FILM FOLLOWED BY A DEBATE on the death penalty with students on the premises of the university centre of SIAO. It brought together more than forty students.
- DEBATE on the death penalty with teachers and young people in Bobo-Dioulasso
- CONFERENCE with primary school teachers. The conference was held on the premises of the public primary school Pissy "B" in Ouagadougou. It brought together about twenty teachers and was on the theme of the death penalty for juveniles.
- GATHERING SIGNATURES for the call for a halt to the execution of juveniles around the world and in four countries, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Sudan, were submitted for the signature of members and sympathizers of Amnesty Burkina Faso. In total 483 signatures were gathered.

[BURUNDI

Union Chrétienne pour les progrès et la défense des Droits de l'Homme

• AWARENESS RAISING CAMPAIGN in secondary and humanitarian schools in rural areas on the mechanisms to fight against the death penalty.

ACAT-Burundi

• INTERVIEW at ACAT Burundi by Radio Vatican for the World Day.

I MADAGASCAR

Lycée Français Antananarivo

• Circulation by the school principal of the teaching guide within the framework of the Teaching Abolition campaign..

I NIGER

Syndicat National des Agents de la Formation et de l'Education du Niger

• ROUND TABLE on education to celebrate the 7th World Day Against the Death Penalty. It brought together 60 actors from Niger civil society.

[DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

ACAT Democratic Republic of Congo

- Sud-Kivu produced THREE RADIO PROGRAMMES, to reach a wide audience on the Radio Maedeleo station, a popular community radio station. One was produced with RADHOSKI (Réseau des Associations des Droit de l'Homme of Sud-Kivu).
- A CONFERENCE-DEBATE on the theme of the death penalty was held at APRODEPED, a local organisation mainly acting in the fields of justice and human rights.
- Nord-Kivu organised in Goma a WEEK OF AWARENESS RAISING on the theme of the death penalty
- INTERVENTIONS were made on two local radio stations in Goma: Radio Alpha Omega by the Coordination des Eglises protestantes pentecôtistes, Radio Télévision communautaire TAYNA.

African Great Lakes Coalition Against the Death Penalty

- WORKSHOPS "Teaching Abolition" in Kinshasa after which participants visited the schools of Kinshasa and the petition was signed.
- LAUNCH on the website of the African Great
- Lakes Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

[TOGO

Forum Africain contre la peine de mort

• AWARENESS RAISING TOUR in three schools in Lomé. The members discussed with pupils from these schools the importance of universal abolition of the death penalty. They also distributed leaflets to pupils.

EUROPE

(64 INITIATIVES - 9 COUNTRIES)

[AUSTRIA

Amnesty International Austria

• INFORMATION STANDS and signature of petitions in Vienna and Linz.

[BELGIUM

Amnesty International, ACAT Belgium and the St. Egidio community

• GATHERING AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY, for the World Day Against the Death Penalty in front of Brussels Cathedral in the city centre.

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French-speaking and German-speaking Bar Association

• PETITION. Call launched to 7,000 lawyers to sign the petition to halt the execution of juveniles around the world.

Parti Centre Démocrate Humaniste

• DELIVERY OF FUNERAL CROWNS in Brussels for the World Day

Haute Ecole libre Mosane

• DEBATE. The Droit de HELMo Saint-Martin section and the Sage-femme de HELMo Sainte-Julienne section organized a debate within the framework of the World Day Against the Death Penalty. This debate brought together 300 people.

RTL Belgique

• PRESS RELEASE presenting the 7th World Day and the debate which was held in Liege on 8 October 2009. On the BEL RTL news.

Patrik Vermeulen

• ART EXHIBITION "Violating Hippocrates' oath?" a series of paintings by the artist and Dr. Patrik Vermeulen, evoking the role of medical personnel in execution of the death penalty.

[SPAIN

Amnesty International Spain

- SIGNATURE OF PETITIONS. Amnesty International Spain gathered over 20,000 signatures against the execution of juveniles in the world.
- DEMONSTRATION against the death penalty at Cadiz, joined by dozens of people. Information STAND and signature of petitions at Huesca and Sabinanigo

Basque Country Parliament

• PUBLICATION of an institutional declaration expressing "profound rejection" of the death penalty on the occasion of the World Day.

Gipuzcoa Parliament, Basque Country

• WORKSHOPS "Education for abolition" in three schools.

[FRANCE

Save Anthony

• INTERVIEW During World Day, Emmanuelle Purdon conducted an interview with Anthony Mungin, condemned to death in the USA.

Gilles Denizot

• Facebook ACTION against the death penalty reaching over 60,000 members..

100% Serge Atlaoui

• SILENT MARCH. On World Day against the death penalty, the association 100% Serge Atlaoui organized a silent march at Metz.

Ensemble contre la peine de mort en partenariat avec la LDH, Amnesty International France, l'ACAT, la FIDH et le Collectif Mumia Abu Jamal.

• DEMONSTRATION against the death penalty. It included a "Duel of Defences concerning the abolitionist argument" conducted by two attorneys, and by young

people reading the testimonies of juveniles condemned to death.

 PRESS RELEASE of the association ECPM announcing the demonstration at Place de la Sorbonne

Radio BLV

• RADIO BROADCAST on the repeal of the death penalty in the world.

Amnesty International France, Alençon

• POSTER EXHIBIT, including those of the World Day, at the book fair.

Amnesty international and ACAT France, Hautes Pyrénées

• An INFORMATION STAND on the death penalty was set up at the Brauhauban Market at Tarbes.

Amnesty international and ACAT France, Lyon

- PSHOWING of the film "The life of David Gale" by director Alan Parker. Showing preceded by an introduction on the death penalty and followed by a 45 minute debate.
- SIGNATURE OF PETITIONS against the execution of juveniles in 3 small tents at place de la république

■ ACAT France

VAISON

 DISTRIBUTION of documents to active members concerning the condemnation of juveniles

FOREZ

• ARTICLE on the death penalty in the weekly parish leaflet.

HAUT-RHIN

• SIGNATURE of petitions against the execution of minors in the world.

BOUCHES-DU-RHÔNE

• SIGNATURE of petitions against the execution of minors in the world.

L'ISLE-ADAM

• SIGNATURE of petitions against the execution of minors at the forum, near the MCR.

CHARTRES

• SHOWING of the film on children in Brazil, during which signatures had been gathered to stop the executions of juveniles in the world.

ROMILLY-SUR-SEINE

• SIGNATURE of petition to stop the execution of juveniles in the world at the exit of the mass.

AVIGNON

• RADIO BROADCAST on RCF devoted to the World Day.

CANNES

• SIGNATURE of the petition at the exit of the mass from 11 to 18 October.

GAP

• INFORMATION on World Day on RCF radio.

ST-MALO, DINARD, CANCALE

• SIGNATURE of petition to stop the execution of juveniles in the world during the associations' forum.

CLERMONT-FERRAND

• RADIO BROADCASTE on RCF: "Why does ACAT campaign for abolition? Where are we in the world concerning this abolition?"

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MONTBELLIARD

- PRESENTATION at a secondary school "Explanation on Human Rights" and the death penalty for 9th year students
- DISTRIBUTION of 50 posters on World Day in Franche-Comté

AGEN

• DEMONSTRATION against the death penalty for World Day Against the Death Penalty.

EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

European Council

- DEBATE on the death penalty broadcast on France 24
- PRESS RELEASE for the European Day and World Day Against the Death Penalty

European Parliament

- PRESS RELEASE by the European Parliament to announce the World Day and the European Day against the death penalty
- EVENT organized by the World Coalition against the death penalty to commemorate the World Day Against the Death Penalty at the European Parliament. At the programme, a presentation by James Welsh of Amnesty International on the subject of mental health and the death penalty.

[ITALY

ACAT Italy

- SIGNATURE of petition to stop the execution of juveniles in the world.
- PRESS RELEASE on the World Day and "Teaching abolition".

Regio Emilia

- WORKSHOPS "Teaching abolition" using the Pedagogical Guide in 9 secondary schools.
- PRESS RELEASE announcing support for the campaign "Teaching abolition".

Amnesty International Italy

- DEBATE on the death penalty organized in collaboration with the cultural association Hamacs.
- SIGNATURE of petitions against the execution of juveniles in the world.
- PRESS RELEASE to announce World Day.

[LUXEMBOURG

ACAT and Amnesty International Luxembourg

- SHOWING OF THE FILM "In Prison my Whole Life" followed by a debate led by the activists
- PRESS CONFERENCE to announce World Day and to speak against the death penalty
- RADIO INTERVIEW
- REFERENCE TO THE Teaching Guide "Teaching abolition" was published in the Courrier de l'éducation Nationale distributed to all teachers. A bilingual summary of the guide was distributed in certain secondary schools.
- MAILING TO SEVERAL PARISHES of the petition to stop the execution of juveniles in the world.
- CULTURAL PRESENTATION on 10 October

during a night visit to the Musée d'histoire de Luxembourg presenting an exhibit on the death penalty theme. The dancers of choreographer Dana Antinori and the percussionist Simon Stierle accompanied the showing of the videos on the death penalty theme.

[THE NETHERLANDS

Utrecht University

• CONFERENCE: "Mumia Abu-Jamal and the death penalty: A global crisis of human rights." by Robert Bryan, attorney for Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Amnesty International Netherlands

- PROJECTION DU FILM « In prison my whole life » suivie d'une conférence animée dans laquelle Robert Bryan, avocat américain est intervenu.
- SIGNATURE DE PETITIONS de l'appel de la Journée mondiale contre la peine de mort.

[PORTUGAL

Amnesty International Portugal

• SIGNATURE of petitions to stop the execution of juveniles in the world.

Swedish Presidency of the European Union

• PRESS RELEASE for the European Day and the World Day and the European World Day against the death penalty

[UNITED KINGDOM

Robert Priseman

- EXHIBIT OF THE PAINTINGS of the artist Robert Priseman to commemorate the World Day Against the Death Penalty at the European Commission.
- BOOK RELEASE "No human way to kill" by Robert Priseman, presided over by Sir Nigel Rodley, followed by a round-table discussion to commemorate the World Day Against the Death Penalty. This event was organised in collaboration with Amnesty International, Reprieve, and Penal Reform International.

Penal Reform International

• PRESS RELEASE on the World Day published on the website of this organisation.

ACAT United Kingdom

• SIGNATURE of petitions to stop the execution of juveniles in the world.

[SUÈDE

Amnesty International Sweden

• SIGNATURE of petitions to stop the execution of juveniles in the world.

[SWITZERLAND

ACAT and Amnesty International Switzerland

• PRESS CONFERENCE on the theme "Toward a world without the death penalty" at the policy forum of the Prison Tour, at Berne

ACAT Switzerland

• SIGNATURE of petitions to stop the execution of juveniles in the world.

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[ACAT Brazil Press Release]

"Dia mundial contra a pena de morte, contra as execuções sumárias e contra as mortes de pessoas sob a custódia do estado"

Samedi 10 octobre 2009

No mundo inteiro, o dia 10 de outubro é reservado para movimentos, atos e reflexões contra a PENA DE MORTE. Nessa data, milhares de pessoas se reúnem para dizer NÃO à pena capital.

No Brasil, a Constituição Federal de 1 988 proíbe a pena de morte (artigo 5°, inciso XLVII). Entretanto, podemos dizer que ela tem sido "aplicada ilegalmente". São chacinas, execuções sumárias e mortes de pessoas que se encontram sob custódia e responsabilidade do Estado. Falamos de mortes que estão diretamente relacionadas com torturas, maus tratos e condições degradantes a que são submetidos (as) os (as) detentos (as). São também as mortes de adolescentes nas unidades da FEBEM/Fundação CASA. Além das mortes de pessoas internadas em manicômios e casas de internação.

As vítimas dessa "pena de morte" são, em sua grande maioria: jovens entre 15 a 24 anos de idade, moradores das periferias das grandes cidades, afrodescendentes em sua grande maioria e pobres no geral. A impunidade em relação aos casos de homicídios nas periferias é enorme. Não existe estímulo por parte dos organismos investigadores do Estado em revelar a autoria de tais mortes, muitas vezes porque existe o envolvimento de policiais.

Somente com forte pressão da sociedade civil, comunidades organizadas e entidades de defesa dos direitos humanos é que mobilizaremos um grande movimento contra essa barbárie. Participe da audiência pública que discutirá essa questão com autoridades e representantes do Poder Público seguido da caminhada para o ato ecumênico e inter-religioso.

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« Appel à l'abolition de la peine de mort au Burkina Faso et à l'arrêt des exécutions des mineurs dans le monde ».

À l'occasion de la journée mondiale contre la peine de mort, l'ACAT-Burkina encourage le Burkina Faso à poursuivre ses efforts en vue d'une abolition définitive de la peine de mort. En effet en 2007, lors de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, le Burkina Faso a voté oui en faveur du moratoire universel sur les exécutions en vue de l'abolition de la peine de mort (résolution 62/149). La réforme du code pénal et du code de procédure pénale est en cours. L'ACAT-Burkina incite le Burkina Faso à rejoindre le mouvement abolitionniste dont le thème suit : « Éduquer à abolir » et à se joindre aux 104 pays qui ont déjà aboli la peine de mort.

La peine de mort est une violation des droits humains et constitue un traitement cruel, inhumain et dégradant. Son efficacité contre le crime n'a jamais été prouvée ; elle n'a aucun effet dissuasif. Elle est irréversible et discriminatoire.

L'ACAT-Burkina:

- 1. Dans le cadre de la relecture du code pénal et du code de procédure pénale, invite l'Assemblée Nationale du Burkina Faso à statuer en faveur de la suppression de l'article portant sur la condamnation à la peine capitale.
- 2. Demande aux pouvoirs publics, aux autorités coutumières et religieuses, à la société civile, de promouvoir auprès des populations Burkinabé l'éducation à abolir toutes formes d'exécutions sommaires et extrajudiciaires.
- 3. Invite l'Etat Burkinabé à respecter ses engagements nationaux et internationaux et à abolir la peine de mort.

À l'occasion de la 7^e Journée mondiale contre la Peine de Mort et du 20e anniversaire de la Convention Internationale relative aux Droits de l'Enfant, l'ACAT-Burkina invite toutes les communautés chrétiennes et toutes les confessions religieuses de notre pays :

- à s'engager dans l'action « Éduquer à abolir » ;
- à œuvrer en faveur de l'arrêt définitif des exécutions des mineurs ;
- à s'unir dans la prière, la charité et l'espérance pour un monde où rien ne pourra se mettre en travers du déploiement de la vie, où la dignité de toute personne humaine sera respectée.

Malgré leurs engagements internationaux, certains pays à l'instar de l'Arabie Saoudite, du Yémen, de l'Iran et du Soudan continuent à exécuter des mineurs. L'ACAT-Burkina interpelle les autorités des pays concernés pour qu'elles cessent d'exécuter des mineurs conformément à la CIDE. L'ACAT-Burkina invite les autorités Burkinabé à s'impliquer au Soudan pour l'arrêt des exécutions des mineurs.

Lucienne Ariane ZOMA Présidente ACAT-Burkina/Membre du Bureau international de la FIACAT

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[ACAT and Amnesty International Switzerland Press Release]

« Halte aux exécutions de mineurs »

Berne, le 8 octobre 2009

La perspective d'un monde sans peine de mort devient de plus en plus réalité. 139 pays ont déjà aboli la peine capitale. Malgré cela, des milliers de personnes sont exécutées chaque année, et parmi elles des mineurs au moment des faits qui leur sont reprochés. C'est pourquoi la mobilisation internationale doit être forte, si l'on veut atteindre un jour un monde sans peine de mort.

Lors d'une conférence de presse commune à l'occasion de la Journée mondiale contre la peine de mort (le 10 octobre), le Département fédéral des affaires étrangères a annoncé que la Suisse, en tant que pays-hôte du 4^e Congrès mondial contre la peine de mort, voulait contribuer de façon importante à l'abolition de la peine capitale dans le monde. Le samedi 10 octobre, des militants manifesteront contre les exécutions de mineurs à Genève et à Zurich.

Lundi dernier, le 5 octobre, le réfugié afghan Abbas Hosseini aurait dû être exécuté en Iran pour un crime commis alors qu'il n'avait que 17 ans. Les autorités judiciaires ont toutefois repoussé l'exécution, pour lui donner le temps de persuader la famille de la victime d'accepter une compensation financière en échange de la résolution de l'affaire. Le sort d'Abbas Hosseini n'est pas unique. Depuis 1990, au moins 41 jeunes ont été exécutés rien qu'en Iran et plus de 140 jeunes attendent dans les couloirs de la mort. Le Yémen, l'Arabie saoudite et le Soudan exécutent également des mineurs.

La Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme garantit à chaque être humain le droit à la vie. La peine de mort viole ce droit fondamental. Elle est cruelle, inefficace et irrévocable. C'est pourquoi des organisations des droits humains, le gouvernement suisse et l'Union européenne s'engagent ensemble contre toute forme de peine capitale et pour son abolition dans le monde.

Ce message a été lancé dans le cadre d'une conférence de presse organisée à Berne par Amnesty International et l'ACAT-Suisse, en collaboration avec le Département fédéral des affaires étrangères (DFAE) et la Délégation de la Commission européenne, à l'occasion de la Journée mondiale contre la peine de mort, le 10 octobre.

Aujourd'hui, 139 pays ont aboli la peine de mort, dans la loi ou la pratique. Seule une petite minorité d'Etats maintient les exécutions. Un monde sans peine de mort devient de plus en plus réalité. De grands progrès ont en particulier été constatés en Afrique. Le 22 avril 2009, le Burundi a adopté un nouveau code pénal qui met fin à la peine de mort. L'engagement durant des années d'organisations locales et internationales de défense des droits humains a permis de convaincre le gouvernement burundais de franchir ce cap, a expliqué Chantal Mutamuriza, présidente et fondatrice de l'ACAT-Burundi.

Pour la Suisse, l'abolition mondiale de la peine de mort est une composante importante de sa politique des droits humains, a expliqué Ralf Heckner, chef de la section politique des droits humains au DFAE, lors de la conférence de presse à Berne. Cet engagement transparaît dans le rôle de la Suisse en tant que pays-hôte du 4º Congrès mondial contre la peine de mort, qui se déroulera du 24 au 26 février 2010 à Genève. En plus du soutien financier, la Suisse s'engage à fond dans l'organisation de cette manifestation, en collaboration avec le canton et la ville de Genève. Plus de 1 000 participants du monde entier sont attendus.

En Europe, le dernier pays à appliquer la peine de mort est la Biélorussie. L'ambassadeur de l'Union européenne en Suisse, Michael Reiterer, a expliqué devant les médias que l'Union européenne cible son lobbying sur les pays qui sont sur le point d'abolir la peine de mort. Elle s'engage également pour des cas individuels quand la peine capitale menace des mineurs, des femmes enceintes ou des personnes handicapées mentales. L'abolition de la peine de mort est une condition sine qua non pour l'adhésion à l'Union européenne.

Lukas Labhardt, expert sur la peine de mort à Amnesty International, a relevé les cas de mineurs au moment des faits reprochés, comme Abbas Hosseini.

En 2008, deux mineurs ont été exécutés en Arabie Saoudite et au moins huit en Iran. Au moins 140 autres attendent dans les couloirs de la mort. Le 10 octobre, des militants d'Amnesty International organiseront des actions de rue et exigeront des autorités d'Iran, du Yémen, d'Arabie saoudite et du Soudan qu'elles renoncent à exécuter les délinquants mineurs.

L'ACAT-Suisse soutient également l'appel contre les exécutions de mineurs. À l'occasion de la journée mondiale 2009, l'organisation de défense des droits humains souhaite sensibiliser en particulier les jeunes, avec le slogan « Éduquer à l'abolition », a expliqué Sonam Bernhard, responsable de la communication de l'ACAT. Pour atteindre cet objectif, l'ACAT a élaboré du matériel pédagogique destiné aux enseignants.

Communiqué de presse commun de la Section suisse d'Amnesty International et de l'ACAT-Suisse www.amnesty.ch | www.acat.ch | www.delche.ec.europa.eu | www.eda.admin.ch

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[Advocates for Human Rights

"World Day against the Death Penalty 2009 : Teaching Abolition"

Minneapolis (October 9, 2009)

Press Release]

October 10, 2009 marks the seventh annual World Day against the Death Penalty. To commemorate this year's theme, "Teaching Abolition" The Advocates for Human Rights is releasing a toolkit on the death penalty for people in the United States and around the world.

The toolkit provides information, stories and teaching materials designed to educate students and adults about the reality of the death penalty. Using a framework of international law, the toolkit encourages debate on the effectiveness and cost of the death penalty, as well as the rights of inmates. Included in the toolkit are a fact sheet, PowerPoint presentation, quiz, glossary, resource list, take action guide, and testimonials. The toolkit will be available free for download on The Advocates' website, www.discoverhumanrights.org.

The toolkit focuses on the United States, which in 2008 was one of only 25 countries in the world to carry out executions and where to date, 135 people on death row have been exonerated. Around the world, 139 countries have abolished the death penalty in law or in practice.

One testimonial included in the toolkit is the story of Jennifer Bishop-Jenkins, whose advocacy to abolish the death penalty is rooted in the murder of her sister Nancy Bishop Langert and her husband, Richard Langert. Jennifer, who serves on the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty's board of directors, says, "I am genuinely committed to using the days that I have in my life, that I am acutely aware my sister will never have, to do all I can to end the cycles of violence in this world. It is the only way I can live in the wake of her murder that makes sense to me."

The Advocates for Human Rights has worked for almost two decades to oppose the death penalty worldwide. The Advocates recognizes that the capricious and arbitrary administration of the death penalty in the United States results in an enormous need for competent lawyers to assist death row inmates with their post-conviction appeals. The Advocates' Death Penalty Project was organized in 1991 to recruit attorneys to respond to this need. The Project also provides education and advocacy on death penalty issues.

The Advocates is also a member of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, an organization that aims to strengthen the international dimension of the struggle against capital punishment. Composed of 95 members from around the globe, it facilitates the constitution and development of national and regional coalitions against the death penalty, leads lobbying actions towards international organizations and States, and organizes events that have an international impact.

Media representatives are invited to schedule interviews regarding World Day against the Death Penalty. For more information on the day and The Advocates' Death Penalty Project, please contact Rosalyn Park at 612-341-3302 x106.

The Advocates for Human Rights is a volunteer-based non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion and protection of internationally recognized human rights. The Advocates investigates and exposes human rights violations; provides representation to immigrants and refugees who have suffered human rights abuses; trains and assists groups that protect human rights; and works through education and advocacy to engage the public, policymakers, and children about human rights issues. The Advocates for Human Rights holds Special Consultative Status with the United Nations.

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[Amnesty International Italy Press Release]

"10 ottobre, Giornata mondiale contro la pena di morte : Amnesty International porta il tema dell'abolizione della pena capitale nelle scuole"

Roma, 8 ottobre 2009

La settima edizione della Giornata mondiale contro la pena di morte, che si celebra in tutto il mondo sabato 10 ottobre, è dedicata al percorso educativo verso l'abolizione della pena di morte. Incoraggiando dibattiti e incontri nelle scuole, Amnesty International si avvarrà della sua decennale esperienza abolizionista per fornire gli strumenti necessari alla riflessione di ragazze e ragazzi su un tema complesso come quello della pena di morte, una violazione estrema dei diritti umani fondamentali.

Inoltre, in vista del XX anniversario della Convenzione sui diritti dell'infanzia, che ricorre il prossimo 20 novembre, Amnesty International e la Coalizione mondiale per l'abolizione della pena di morte, lanciano un pubblico appello ai quattro paesi che ancora oggi mettono a morte minorenni per fermare queste esecuzioni e allinearsi alla grande maggioranza dei paesi che hanno posto fine a questa pratica.

Arabia Saudita, Iran, Sudan e Yemen continuano a emettere ed eseguire condanne a morte nei confronti di persone che avevano meno di 18 anni al momento del reato. In Iran, spesso, sono stati messi a morte imputati minorenni anche al momento dell'esecuzione. Tra l'inizio del 2007 e giugno del 2009, Amnesty International ha documentato 24 esecuzioni di minorenni in Arabia Saudita, Iran e Yemen.

Oggi il mondo è sempre più libero dalla pena capitale. Nel 2009, il Burundi e il Togo sono diventati abolizionisti per tutti i reati. Negli Usa, anche lo Stato del New Mexico ha posto fine alle esecuzioni. Ad agosto, il presidente del Kenya ha ordinato la più grande commutazione della storia: 4000 condanne a morte sono state tramutate in ergastolo. Segnali importanti giungono anche dai paesi mantenitori: in Vietnam, ad esempio, sono stati ridotti i reati punibili con la pena di morte.

Sono 139 i paesi che hanno abolito la pena capitale per legge o nella pratica. Di questi, 94 sono abolizionisti per tutti i reati, 10 solo per i reati ordinari e 35 sono classificati abolizionisti nella pratica, poiché non vi si registrano esecuzioni da almeno 10 anni oppure hanno assunto un impegno a livello internazionale a non eseguire condanne a morte.

In Europa, solo la Bielorussia continua a emettere ed eseguire condanne a morte. Il 2 ottobre scorso, la Corte suprema ha respinto la richiesta d'appello di Vasily Yusepchuk, condannato a morte per omicidio nel 2009. L'uomo è analfabeta e affetto da ritardo mentale. Amnesty International ha lanciato un appello in suo favore e, alla vigilia della Giornata mondiale contro la pena di morte, chiede con urgenza al presidente Lukashenka che gli sia concessa la grazia e che nel paese venga istituita una moratoria sulle esecuzioni.

Amnesty International si oppone alla pena di morte in modo incondizionato, ritenendola la massima punizione crudele, inumana e degradante. La pena capitale non ha mai dimostrato di avere un effetto deterrente più efficace di altre punizioni, è un sinonimo di violenza e non una soluzione a essa.

Ulteriori informazioni

Il 10 ottobre Amnesty International, la Coalizione mondiale contro la pena di morte e altri gruppi abolizionisti organizzano iniziative in ogni parte del mondo. Fondata nel maggio 2002, la Coalizione riunisce 96 organizzazioni per i diritti umani, associazioni legali, sindacati e autorità locali e regionali che agiscono insieme per liberare il mondo dalla pena di morte. Maggiori informazioni sono disponibili all'indirizzo www.worldcoalition.org

Nel 2008, Amnesty International ha registrato almeno 2390 esecuzioni in 25 paesi e almeno 8864 condanne a morte in 52 paesi. Cina, Iran, Arabia Saudita, Pakistan e Usa sono i paesi con il più alto numero di esecuzioni al mondo.

I trattati internazionali, sia il Patto internazionale sui diritti civili e politici che la Convenzione sui diritti dell'infanzia, vietano l'applicazione della pena di morte nei confronti di persone che avevano meno di 18 anni al momento del reato. Dal 1990, Amnesty International ha documentato 77 esecuzioni di minorenni in nove paesi: Arabia Saudita, Cina, Repubblica Democratica del Congo, Iran, Nigeria, Pakistan, Usa, Sudan e Yemen. Alcuni di questi paesi hanno poi modificato la legge in modo tale da escludere questa procedura, come gli Usa, dove nel 2005 la Corte suprema ha dichiarato incostituzionale l'applicazione della pena di morte per i minorenni all'epoca del reato, allineando in questo modo la legislazione americana agli standard internazionali riconosciuti.

Nel 2007, tre paesi hanno eseguito condanne a morte nei confronti di imputati che avevano meno di 18 anni al momento del reato : due minorenni sono stati messi a morte in Arabia Saudita, otto in Iran e uno nello Yemen. Nel 2008, solo l'Iran ha messo a morte minorenni, in otto distinti casi. Dall'inizio del 2009, Amnesty International ha documentato l'esecuzione di tre minorenni in Iran e due in Arabia Saudita. In Sudan, quattro ragazzi di 17 anni sono attualmente sotto processo, accusati di aver partecipato agli attacchi di Khartoum. Secondo il Relatore speciale delle Nazioni Unite sulla situazione dei diritti umani in Sudan, nel 2008 altri due ragazzi di 16 e 17 anni sono stati condannati a morte.

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[Press Release of Collectif Unitaire National de soutien à Mumia Abu-Jamal]

« Diffusion nationale aux soutiens à Mumia Abu-Jamal »

SAMEDI 10 OCTOBE 2009

À l'initiative de la Coalition Mondiale contre la peine de mort*, la 7e Journée mondiale contre la peine de mort aura lieu le samedi 10 octobre 2009. Comme tous les ans depuis 2003, des initiatives se dérouleront dans le monde entier pour dire NON A LA PEINE DE MORT. Sur les cinq continents, pétitions, tables rondes, débats et expositions sont prévues.

Pour consulter le programme complet des manifestations, connectez-vous sur le site : www.worldcoalition.org./worldday

À Paris, une animation publique aura lieu samedi 10 octobre de 11 heures à 15 heures place de la Sorbonne à l'appel de plusieurs organisations : Ensemble Contre la Peine de Mort (ECPM), Amnesty International, ACAT, Lique des droits de l'Homme, FIDH...

Au programme : exposition, stands, plaidoiries d'avocats, témoignages de condamnés à mort.

Notre collectif apportera sa contribution au succès de cette initiative en animant un point d'infos sur la nécessaire éducation à l'abolition (thème de la journée mondiale) et en diffusant un matériel spécifique sur la situation de Mumia Abu-Jamal, figure emblématique du combat planétaire pour l'abolition de la peine de mort. Nous donnons rendez-vous aux Franciliens place de la Sorbonne.

Sachez également qu'à l'occasion de cette journée, une audience a été sollicitée auprès du nouvel Ambassadeur des États-Unis en France pour lui faire part de notre préoccupation eu égard à la situation de Mumia et lui remettre les milliers de lettre-pétitions à l'adresse de Barack Obama déjà recueillies. Cette demande a été formalisée par Nicole Borvo Cohen-Seat, sénatrice de Paris, présidente du groupe CRC-SPG et vice-présidente de la commission des Lois (voir en fichier joint).

Pour le Collectif Unitaire National de soutien à Mumia Abu-Jamal (80 organisations françaises),

Jacky Hortaut

*Le Collectif Unitaire National de soutien à Mumia Abu-Jamal est membre du comité de pilotage de la Coalition Mondiale contre la peine de mort regroupant une centaine d'organisations de tous les continents.

[Death Penalty Focus Press Release]

"World Day Against the Death Penalty to be marked around the globe on October 10"

October 8, 2009

The 7th annual World Day Against the Death Penalty will be celebrated internationally on Saturday, October 10, 2009. Every year since 2003, organizations committed to ending the death penalty have organized events around the world on this day. This year, across five continents, round tables, discussions, debates and exhibitions are planned. The program of scheduled events is on the website of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty here.

Death Penalty Focus, a San Francisco-based non-profit organization that has been working for alternatives to the death penalty in the United States for over 20 years, joins the 98 other member organizations of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty to mark World Day. "The theme for this World Day is Teaching Abolition," said Elizabeth Zitrin, International Coordinator for Death Penalty Focus. "By encouraging debates on the death penalty, we hope that people – particularly students – will learn about the realities of this failed policy, which has been rejected by 139 nations around the world."

Progress toward universal abolition continues each year. In 2008, only 25 countries carried out executions and 93 % of those occurred in just five countries: China, Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United States. In 2009, the State of New Mexico joined the nations of Burundi and Togo in abolishing the death penalty. In addition, the nations of Kenya and Morocco commuted all of their death sentences earlier this year.

To mark World Day in California, Death Penalty Focus is working to generate 10,000 signatures on a petition to Governor Schwarzenegger to "convert all current death sentences to sentences of life without possibility of parole, protecting Californians while saving \$1 billion in five years" by November 10 th. You can view the Petition on Facebook hereor.

In honor of the day, the European Union, which also celebrates the day as European Day Against the Death Penalty, is promoting the use of secondary and law school curricula to encourage discussion on the issue and develop critical thinking skills. They are available in seven languages on the World Coalition website at http://www.worldcoalition.org.

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[Press Release of Ensemble contre la peine de mort]

« 7° Journée mondiale contre la peine de mort : Eduquer à l'abolition »

Samedi 10 octobre 2009, de 11 heures à 15 heures

Place de la Sorbonne, 75005 Paris

A l'initiative de la Coalition mondiale contre la peine de mort, la 7e Journée mondiale contre la peine de mort du 10 octobre 2009 est consacrée au projet « Eduquer à l'abolition ». Une animation publique aura lieu à Paris à l'appel de plusieurs organisations : Ensemble Contre la Peine de Mort (ECPM), Amnesty International France, ACAT, Le Collectif Mumia Abu Jamal, La Ligue des droits de l'Homme.

Au programme:

11 heures : Exposition « Sur les chemins de l'abolition universelle », débats, signature de

étitions.

13 heures : Plaidoiries autour de l'argumentaire abolitionniste par Arié Alimi et Victor Zagury,

avocats au barreau de Paris.

13 h 45 : Témoignage de mineurs condamnés à mort présentés par de jeunes militants.

16 heures: Lancement du livre « Il n'y a pas de manière humaine de tuer » (« No Human

way to kill ») de Robert Priseman. Avec la participation et le témoignage de Cathy Harrington, qui malgré l'assassinat de sa fille, refuse la peine de mort pour tout condamné. (Café Le Sorbon, 60 rue des Ecoles, 75005 Paris).

La Coalition mondiale contre la peine de mort et l'association Ensemble contre la peine de mort (ECPM) ont institué le 10 octobre comme Journée mondiale contre la peine de mort. La première édition de cet événement annuel a eu lieu en 2003. La Journée mondiale contre la peine de mort a été officialisée par le Conseil de l'Europe et l'Union européenne en 2007.

Comme tous les ans depuis 2003, des initiatives se dérouleront dans le monde entier. Sur les cinq continents, pétitions, tables rondes, débats et expositions sont prévues.

Pour consulter le programme complet des manifestations, connectez-vous sur : www.worldcoalition.org/worldday.

[Press Release of Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights]

"Statement on World Day Against the Death Penalty"

October 10, 2009

Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights is an organization of family members of homicide victims and family members of people who have been executed. As survivors with a direct stake in the death penalty debate, and as people who believe in the value of basic human rights principles, we join today in the call for a worldwide moratorium on executions.

The most basic of human rights, the right to life, is violated both by homicide and by execution. We call today for a consistent human rights ethic in response to violence: let us not respond to one human rights violation with another human rights violation. Let us recognize that justice for victims is not achieved by taking another life.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was inspired by victims, demanded by victims. It grew out of the suffering of millions of civilians murdered under the brutal regimes of the Second World War, and its adoption on December 10, 1948 was a way to honor the loss of those lives by asserting that such violations are neither moral nor permissible under any nation or regime.

Now, over sixty years later, let us recognize that violations of human life in the form of the death penalty should not be permissible under any nation or regime. We call for abolition of the death penalty because the only way to uphold human rights is to uphold them in all cases, universally.

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[European Parliament

Press Release

"Opening of Strasbourg session : appeal to abolish death penalty"

A strong appeal for the abolition of capital punishment was issued by EP President Jerzy Buzek as he opened this week's plenary session in Strasbourg with a reference to European Day against the Death Penalty.

International Day for the Abolition of the Death Penalty - 10 th October - has also since 2007 been European Day against the Death Penalty, pointed out President Buzek. He regretted that the death penalty continued to be used in one European country, Belarus, and also highlighted its use in China, Iran and the United States. "I would like to reiterate our appeal to every country still applying the death penalty to abolish it or establish, pending its abolition, a moratorium on executions and death sentences", he said.

On other topics, the President mentioned the signing of the Lisbon Treaty by Polish President Kaczynski and said "I am convinced that we will find a solution with the Czech Republic in the near future".

Turning to the coming week's agenda in Strasbourg, Mr Buzek highlighted a new feature of Parliament's plenary sessions: Question Hour with Commission President Barroso. The first such debate, scheduled for Tuesday at 3pm, "will make debates more lively and will open up our discussions even further", said Mr Buzek.

A request by the EPP group to alter the title of Wednesday's vote on motions for resolutions on "Freedom of information in Italy and other EU Member States" to "Freedom of information in the European Union" was defeated by 231 votes to 195 with 9 abstentions.

[Reggio Emilia Press Release]

The Municipality of Reggio Emilia supports the World Coalition against the death penalty to promote the World Day 2009 based on the subject "Teaching abolition"

As every year the World Day against the death penalty promoted by the World Coalition against the death penalty – www.worldcoalition.org - on October 10 th is focussing on a specific subject. This year's subject is "Teaching abolition".

The World Coalition, including the most important international abolitionist organisations, and that Reggio Emilia joined in 2004, has prepared a pedagogical guide for high schools teachers with proposals of activities to develop with kids. In the latest years high schools students and teachers have been privileged addressees of the activities promoted on Human Rights. The role of school is crucial to educate and stimulate the discussion among kids on themes also burning as the death penalty.

Students joining this initiative will report the outcome of their work in a public session on the occasion of the celebration of the World Day "Cities for Life" at the end of November 2009.

The local working group is composed, together with the Municipality of Reggio Emilia, by the main local organisations committed in the fight against the death penalty: Amnesty International, local section, Comunità di Sant'Egidio, Associazione Carlo Bortolani onlus, the provincial seat of the trade unions CGIL-CISL-UIL, and the Scuola di Pace di Reggio Emilia (School of Peace of Reggio Emilia) which includes about 30 different organisations of Reggio Emilia's territory.

The schools of Reggio Emilia enthusiastically joining the project "Teaching abolition", to continue to develop the work on Human Rights started in the past years, are: Liceo Classico-Scientifico "Ariosto-Spallanzani", Istituto Tecnico Industriale "Nobili", Istituto d'Arte "Chierici", Istituto Magistrale "Matilde di Canossa", Istituto Tecnico Statale per Geometri "B. Pascal" ad indirizzo sperimentale BUS- TCS, Istituto Professionale per l'Industria e l'Artigianato "Luigi Galvani", Middle school "San Vincenzo De Paoli".

NOTE :

The Municipality of Reggio Emilia is committed since years in the fight against the death penalty in the world, also assuming an international role as member of the World Coalition against the death penalty, of the Texas Coalition for the abolition of the death penalty and financing some funds for the legal defence of death row inmates.

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Membres of the world coalition

The list of the 108 members, from 30 April 2010, is sorted in alphabetical order by the French name of the country.

Executive Secretariat

• ECPM

3, rue Paul Vaillant Couturier 92320 Châtillon, France Général : contact@abolition.fr

	Victorian Criminal Justice Coalition	
	Peter Norden	pnorden@unimelb.edu.au
BELARUS		
	Belarusian Helsinki Committee	
	Dzmitr Markusheuski	office@belhelcom.org www.belhelcom.org
BELGIUM		
	• Fédération des Etudiants Libéraux (FEL)	
	Arnaud Van Praet	arnaud@etudiantsliberaux.be info@etudiantsliberaux.be http://etudiantsliberaux.blogspot.com
	Hope & Justice	
	Annyck Guillard	annyckguillard@hotmail.com www.hopeandjustice.com
	• Ordre des avocats du Barreau de Liège	
	Patrick Henry	batonnierdeliege@avocat.be
	Ordre des Barreaux Francophones et Germanophones de Belgique (OFBG)	
	Christine de Ville de Goyet	cdeville.secrgen@avocats.be
	Ville de Braine-l'Alleud	
	Vincent Scourneau	cftj_europe@yahoo.fr www.braine-lalleud.be
	Ville de Braine-l'Alleud	
	Myriam Stubbe	cftj_europe@yahoo.fr www.braine-lalleud.be

BURUNDI

• Union Chrétienne pour le Progrès et la Défense des Droits de l'Homme			
Daniel Mutambala Mazinda	ucpdho@yahoo.fr		
Unis contre la peine de mort			
Léonidas Habarugira	ishimwess@yahoo.fr		

CAMEROON

• Droits et Paix		_
Nestor TOKO MONKAM	droitsetpaix@yahoo.fr	

CANADA

• Iranian Human Rights Activists Groups in EU and North America		
Hossein Mahoutiha	hmahoutiha@videotron.ca	
	www.hriran.org	

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	• Rights and Democracy / Droits et Dém	ocratie
	Lloyd Lipsett	llipsett@dd-rd.ca
		reseau@dd-rd.ca
		http://www.dd-rd.net
	• Stop Child Executions	
	Nazanin Afshin-Jam	info@nazanin.ca
DEMOCRATIO	REPUBLIC OF CONGO	
	* Culture pour la Paix et la Justice	
	Liévin Ngondji	cpj_ong@yahoo.fr
	* Collectif des Organisations des Jeunes (COJESKI RDC)	Solidaires du Congo-Kinshasa
	Fernandez Murhola	cojeski_rdcongo@yahoo.com
		cojeski.rdc@societecivile.cd
		www.cojeski.org
	* Comité des Observateurs des Droits d	e l'Homme (CODHO)
	N'Sii Luanda Shandwe	nsiiluanda_codho@yahoo.fr
		codho_kinshasa@yahoo.fr
	* Congolese Youth Movement	
	Robert Wangachumo	congyouth@yahoo.fr
	Pax Christi Uvira	
	Jean-Jacques de Christ Nganya	paxchristiuvira@yahoo.fr www.paxchristi.net
	RADHOMA/ RD Congo	
	Baudouin Kipaka Basilimu	radhoma_congo@yahoo.fr
FIJI ISLANDS		
	Pacific Concerns Resource Center	
	Tupou Vere	pcrc.secretariat@gmail.com tupou.pcrc@gmail.com
FRANCE		
	ACAT France	
	Bernadette Forhan	bernadette.forhan@club-internet.fr
	Cécile Marcel	cecile.marcel@acatfrance.fr
		www.acat.asso.fr
	Amnesty International France	
	Didier Beaudet	compeinedemort@amnesty.fr
		didier.beaudet@orange.fr
	no no constante de la constant	www.amnesty.asso.fr
	Barreau de Paris	
	Anne Souléliac	asouleliac@avocatparis.org
		www.avocatparis.org

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Jacky Hortaut	cgt-clidf@wanadoo.fr
Claude Guillaumaud Pujol	claude.guillaumaud@free.fr
	www.mumiabujamal.net
 Fédération Internationale des Ligu 	ies des Droits de l'Homme
Antoine Bernard	abernard@fidh.org
Florence Bellivier	florence.bellivier@wanadoo.fr
	www.fidh.org
 Fédération Syndicale Unitaire SNU 	ipp
Francis Barbe	francis.barbe@snuipp.fr
	www.snuipp.fr
• FIACAT	
Marie-Jo Cocher	fiacat@fiacat.org
Guillaume Colin	g.colin@fiacat.org
	www.fiacat.org
• Comité Syndical Francophone de l'	
Roger Ferrari	csfef@snes.edu
 Conférence Internationale des Bar 	reaux
Mario Stasi	mstasi@stasiparis.com
Richard Sédillot	sedillot@aol.com
	ww.cib.asso.fr
• Ligue des Droits de l'Homme	
Pavlina Novotny	pavlina.novotny@ldh-france.org
	www.ldh-france.org
• Lutte pour la Justice	
Colette Berthès	BrthsCl@aol.com
	www.lpj-france.net
 Magistrats européens pour la dém 	ocratie et les libertés (MEDEL)
Eric Alt	eric.alt@noos.fr
	http://www.medelnet.org
• Mouvement contre le Racisme et p	pour l'Amitié entre les Peuples (MRAP)
Renée Le Mignot	international@mrap.fr
	www.mrap.asso.fr
• Ordre des avocats des Hauts de Se	eine
Philippe-Henri Dutheil	batonnier@barreau92.com
	http://www.barreau92.com
• Ville de Dijon	
Philippe Sartori	psartori@ville-dijon.fr
rillippe sartori	100 6
rillippe Sartori	www.dijon.fr
• RAIDH	www.dijon.fr
	www.dijon.fr raidh@raidh.org

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$\neg \Psi$	

Nizam Assaf

Valentina Pomatto

• Arab Coalition Against the Death Penalty

	Alive	
	Petra Herrmann	info@alive-gegen-todesstrafe.de www.todesstrafe.usa.de
GUINEA		
	• Les mêmes droits pour tous (MDT)	
	Foromo Frédéric Loua	mdtguinee@yahoo.fr
INDIA		
	• Lawyers For Human Rights Internation	nal
	Navkiran Singh	nkslawfirm@yahoo.co.in www.lfhri.org
	• Law Student's Forum	
	Nadeem Qadri	lawstudentsforumjk@yahoo.co.in
INDONESIA		
	• KontraS (Commission for the Dissape	eared and Victims of Violence)
	Papang Hidayat	thungpapang@yahoo.com www.kontras.org
IRAN		
	Association for the Right to Live	
	Emmadeddin Baghi	emadbaghi2003@yahoo.com ebaghi@gmail.com
IRAQ		
	• Iraqi Center for Human Rights and D	emocracy Studies
	Mohammed Abdullah Radhi	ichrs.iraq@gmail.com
	• Iraqi Alliance for the Prevention of the	he Death Penalty
	Nassr Abbood	naserabood@yahoo.com www.al-rafidain.org
ITALY		
	• Communità di Sant'Egidio	
	Mario Marazziti	m.marazziti@gmail.com m.marazziti@fastwebnet.it www.santegidio.org
	Regione Toscana Italia	3 • 3
	Angelo Passaleva	angelopassaleva@tiscali.it www.regione.toscana.it
	• Città di Reggio Emilia	3
	Chiara Piacentini	Chiara.Piacentini@municipio.re.it

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	Arab Coalition Against the Death	Penalty
JORDAN		
	Yoshihiro Yasuda	jyonasan@symphony.plala.or.jp
	• Forum 90	
	Maiko Tagusari	m-tg@mwa.biglobe.ne.jp
	• Center for Prisoner's Rights (CPR	(1)
JAPAN		
	Patrick N'Gouan Konin	lidho@aviso.ci
	• Ligue Ivoirienne des Droits de l'I	Homme
IVORY COA	ST	
	Antonio Panti	direzione@ordine-medici-firenze.it http://85.35.144.226/start.asp
		irurgi e degli Odontoiatri di Firenze
		www.comune.matera.it
		comune@comune.mt.it
	• Matera (Ville de)	
	vito ivionetti	vitomonetti@libero.it http://www.medelnet.org/pages/89_1.htn
	Magistrats européens pour la dé Vito Monetti	
		www.handsoffcain.info
	Elisabetta Zamparutti	e.zamparutti@radicali.it
	• Hands off Cain	
	Grazia Guaschino	guygre@libero.it
	• Comitato Paul Rougeau	
	Alessandra Ruberti	www.coalit.org
	Coalizione italiana contro la pen Alessandra Ruberti	aleruberti66@yahoo.it
	. Casliniana italiana santus la non	www.comune.venezia.it
	Andrea Del Mercato	international.relations@comune.venezia.it
	• Città di Venezia	
	Darbara Dominer	www.municipio.re.it/retecivica/urp/home.n
	Barbara Donnici	Barbara.Donnici@municipio.re.it

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achrs@achrs.org

www.achrs.org

ir@achrs.org v.pomatto@achrs.org



KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN

• Bahrain Human Rights Society

Abdulla Alderazi bhrs@bhrs.com

MALTA

• International Organization for Diplomatic Relations

Mara Catello diplomatic@iodr.org www.iodr.org

MAURITANIA

• Mauritanian Coalition Against Death Penalty

El Hacene Mahmoud Mbareck Abdah67@yahoo.fr

www.adhm.mr

MOROCCO

• Coalition nationale pour l'abolition de la peine de mort au Maroc

Abdellah Mouseddad amouseddad@yahoo.fr

• Association Marocaine des Droits Humains (AMDH)

Ben Abdesselam Abdel-Ilah lilahbena@yahoo.fr

• Centre marocain des droits de l'Homme

Mohammed Ennouhi youssefennouhi@yahoo.fr

> cmdh@cmdh.org www.cmdh.org

• Forum Marocain pour la Vérité et la Justice

Driss Oumhand fmvj@menara.ma

drissoumhand@yahoo.fr

• Organisation Marocaine des Droits Humains

Mostafa Znaidi m.znaidi@gmail.com

znaidi44@gmail.com contact@omdh.org www.omdh.org

• Observatoire Marocain des Prisons

Abderrahim Jamai a.jamai@menara.ma

NIGER

• ROTAB

Ali Idrissa pcqvpniger@yahoo.fr

• SYNAFEN, Syndicat national des agents de la formation et de l'éducation du Niger

Almoustapha Moussa synafen@yahoo.fr

• Action pour une Education de qualité

Boubacar Inoussa inoussa.boubacar@yahoo.fr

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NIGERIA		
	HURILAWS	
	Ja'afaru Adamu	a.jaafaru@hurilaws.org hurilaws@hurilaws.org http://www.hurilaws.org
	Nigerian Humanist Movement	nttp://www.numaws.org
	Léo Igwe	humanistleo@hotmail.com
NORWAY		
	• Iran Human Rights	
	Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam	Iranhr2007@gmail.com www.iranhr.net
PALESTINE ((AUTONOMOUS TERRITORIES)	
	Palestinian Center for Human Rights	
	Raji Al-Sourani	pchr@pchrgaza.org http://pchrgaza.ps
PAKISTAN		
	Human Rights Commission of Pakistan	
	Kamran Arif	Kamranarif.advocate@gmail.com www.hcrp-web.org
PORTO RICO		
	Puerto Rican Coalition Against Death Personal Person	enalty
	Carmelo Campos Cruz	carmelocampos@yahoo.com
	* Puerto Rico Bar Association	
	Juan Matos-De Juan	matosdejuan@gmail.com
RWANDA		
	Observatoire National des Prisons	
	Christian Buzigwa	grafkivu@yahoo.fr
UNITED KIN	GDOM	
	Death Watch International	
	Simon Shepherd	info@deathwatchinternational.org www.deathwatchinternational.org
	Amnesty International Secrétariat International	national
	Chiara Sangiorgio	CSangiorgio@amnesty.org www.amnesty.org
	Penal Reform International (PRI)	
	Mary Murphy	mmurphy@penalreform.org

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www.penalreform.org



SPAIN

• Ciudad de Andoain

Jonel Turrioz idazadm.andoian@udal.gipuzkoa.net

SWITZERLAND

Ordre des Avocats de Genève

Jean-François Ducrest secretariat@odageneve.ch www.odageneve.ch

 Lifespark

Evelyne Giordani contactus@lifespark.org www.lifespark.org
 • Organisation Mondiale Contre la Torture (OMCT)

Alexandra Kossin ak@omct.org www.omct.org

 • International Commission of Jurists

Jan Borgen jan.borgen@icj.org

TAIWAN

• Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty (TAEDP)

Hsinyi Lin hsinyi1975@gmail.com

taedp.tw@gmail.com

www.icj.org

taedp-wcadp@googlegroups.com

www.taedp.org.tw www.peopo.org/taedp

TANZANIA

Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC)

Helen Kijo-Bisimba lhrc@humanrights.or.tz

TOGO

Forum Africain Contre la Peine de Mort

Ganyo Gbeti ganyo sam@yahoo.fr

facpm@aol.com

www.desmainsunies.com/FACPM/FACPM.htm

TUNISIA

• Coalition Nationale tunisienne contre la peine de mort

Mohamed Habib Marsit atunisia@sections.amnesty.org

• Conseil National pour les Libertés en Tunisie

Sihem Bensedrine contact@cnlt98.org

sbensedrine@yahoo.com www.cnltunisie.org

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UGANDA

•	Foundation	for	Human	Rights	Initiative	(FHRI)	į
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Livingstone Sewanyana fhri@starcom.co.ug

fhri@spacenet.co.ug www.fhri.or.ug

UKRAINE

• Women's Information Consultative Center

Olena Suslova wicc@empedu.org.ua

http://www.empedu.org.ua

UNITED STATES

• Death Penalty Focus

Elizabeth Zitrin ezitrin@deathpenalty.org

elizabeth@deathpenalty.org

eaz@ZitrinLaw.com www.deathpenalty.org

www.californiamoratorium.org

• Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights (MVFHR)

Renny Cushing rrcushing@earthlink.net

www.murdervictimsfamilies.org

• National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL)

Sandra Babcock s-babcock@law.northwestern.edu

Speedy Rice speedyrice@jcsrlaw.net

www.nacdl.org

• Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

David Atwood dpatwood@igc.org

www.tcadp.org

Advocates for Human Rights

Rosalyn Park rpark@advrights.org

www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org

• American Friends Service Committee

Joyce Miller JMiller@afsc.org

www.afsc.org

• CURE

Claudia Whitman claudia@ndran.org

claudia@celldoor.com www.curenational.org

• Human Rights Watch

David Fathi David.Fathi@hrw.org

www.hrw.org

• Journey of Hope... From Violence to Healing

Bill Pelke bpelke@yahoo.com

bill@journeyofhope.org

www.journeyofhope.org

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•	National	Coalition	to Abolish	Deatn	renaity	(IV	ACDI)
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Sean Wallace info@ncadp.org www.ncadp.org

• People of Faith Against the Death Penalty

Stephan Dear sdear@pfadp.org www.pfadp.org

• Stop Child Executions

David Etebari info@stopchildexecutions.com detebari@gmail.com www.stopchildexecutions.com

• US Human Rights Network

Ajamu Baraka abaraka@ushrnetwork.org

• National Lawyers Guild (NLG)

Heidi Boghosian director@nlg.org www.nlg.org

• National Lawyers Guild (NLG)

Robert R. Bryan RobertRBryan@gmail.com www.nlg.org

• Campaign to end Death Penalty

Patricia Foley patconnect@gmail.com www.nodethpenalty.org

• Michigan Committee Against Capital Punishment

Eugene Wanger gil com@core.com

UZBEKISTAN

• Mothers Against Death Penalty

Tamara Chunikova tamara4848@mail.ru



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