

REPORT 2010

Eighth edition

**WORLD DAY AGAINST
THE DEATH PENALTY**

10.10.10

The Death Penalty
Casts a Shadow on Democracy



OCTOBER 10TH
2010

**WORLD DAY
AGAINST THE
DEATH PENALTY**

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**WORLD DAY
AGAINST THE DEATH
PENALTY**

THE USA:
THE DEATH PENALTY
CASTS A SHADOW
ON DEMOCRACY

10.10.10

Eighth World Day



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THE WORLD COALITION AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY (WCADP)

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 120 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 create national and regional coalitions and organizing worldwide events.

In 2003, the World Coalition established the World Day Against the Death Penalty on 10 October.

This event is followed all over the world and especially in countries that continue to use the death penalty.



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[1]
A World Day
on the Death Penalty
in the USA



“Lethal Injection“. Painting by Robert Priseman.

“*The death penalty still has plenty of fans,
and those who want to see it abolished would be fools not to acknowledge that fact.
But there is a growing awareness on the part of many Americans
that capital punishment may not be worth the risks or costs it carries.*”

Editorial, Birmingham News 22/11/2010

The Previous World Days Against the Death Penalty

In 2003 the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty made 10 October the World Day Against the Death Penalty. In 2007 it was officially recognised 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 around 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 around 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 around the world. The first theme chosen was abolition of the death penalty in Africa. In 2005 only 12 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



Posters of the 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 World Days.

executions in the world. The 2009 World Day was marked by the launch of an education campaign: “Teaching Abolition”. The World Coalition also called for an end to juvenile executions in the countries that still execute. On this occasion initiatives were carried out throughout the world. The petition against juvenile executions in Saudi Arabia, Iran, Sudan and Yemen collected over 100,000 signatures.

Finally, 2010 was focused on the death penalty in the USA. In 2009, the United States of America had the fifth highest number of executions in the world, putting it in the company of China, Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. This 9th World Day (10/10/10) aimed at supporting those in the USA who are fighting for its abolition and at strengthening the worldwide trend towards abolition in a world where the USA is often considered as a model for democracy.

The Death Penalty around the World: 2010 Facts and Figures

The facts and figures presented below are taken from various reports published by Amnesty International in 2010 and 2011 unless otherwise specified. *Amnesty International*, *Hands off Cain*, *Human Rights Watch*, *Iran Human Rights* and *Stop Child Executions*, quoted below, are members of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

10.10.10 10 REASONS TO END THE DEATH PENALTY

- 1- No State should have the power to takes a citizen's life.**
- 2- It is irrevocable.** No justice system is safe from judicial error and innocent people are likely to be sentenced to death.
- 3- It is inefficient.** It has never been shown that the death penalty deters crimes more effectively than other punishments.
- 4- It is unfair.** The death penalty is discriminatory and is often used disproportionately against the poor, the mentally ill, those from racial and ethnic minorities, and in some places in the world because of discrimination linked to sexual orientation or religion.
- 5- It does not offer justice to murder victims' families.** The effects of murder cannot be erased by more killing, and the death system prolongs the suffering of victims' families.
- 6- It creates more victims.** The death penalty inflicts pain on the families of those on death row.
- 7- It is inhuman, cruel and degrading.** The dreadful conditions on death row inflict extreme psychological suffering and execution is a physical and mental assault.
- 8- It is applied overwhelmingly in violation of international standards.** It breaches the principles of the 1948 Universal Declaration of 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 of the international trend towards abolition recognized by three votes at the United Nations General Assembly calling for the establishment of a universal moratorium on the use of the death penalty (resolutions 62/149, 63/168 and 65/201 adopted in 2007, 2008 and 2010).
- 9- It does not keep society safe.**
- 10- It denies any possibility of rehabilitation to the criminal.**

Abolitionist and Non-Abolitionist Countries

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

- 97 countries have abolished the death penalty for all crimes;
- 8 countries have abolished the death penalty for all crimes except extraordinary crimes such as those committed during times of war;
- 34 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 23 countries carried out executions in 2010.

Progress Made towards World Abolition of the Death Penalty

Since 1990 more than 57 countries have abolished capital punishment for all crimes: in Africa (recent examples include Gabon, Burundi and Togo); the Americas (Mexico, Paraguay, and Argentina); Asia-Pacific (Bhutan, the Philippines, Samoa, Kirghizstan, and Uzbekistan); and Europe (Armenia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Cyprus).

Death Sentences and Executions

During 2010 at least 527 prisoners were executed in 23 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 2024 individuals were sentenced to death in 67 countries.

These figures reflect only the cases of which Amnesty International are aware and are undoubtedly 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 other countries around 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 estimates that in 2010 China continued to use the death penalty extensively against thousands of people. However, even under these conditions, a positive development is underway: in February 2011, the National People's Congress of China passed a law reducing the number of offenses punishable by death from 68 to 55.

Amnesty International received reports that at least 60 people were executed in North

Korea in 2010. Executions are usually carried out in secret, but an increased number of executions were held in public to serve as an example to others.

Eleven countries imposed death sentences but continued not to carry out executions in 2010: Afghanistan, Brunei Darussalam, India, Indonesia, Laos, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, South Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand. In January 2010 Mongolia declared an official moratorium on executions.

• Iran, Saudi Arabia and Yemen

According to the information gathered by Amnesty International, Iran executed at least 252 individuals in 2010. According to Iran Human Rights' annual report, at least 546 people were executed in 2010, 312 of which have been confirmed officially or unofficially by the Iranian authorities. These figures put Iran in second place in terms of executions around the world.

In Yemen, at least 53 people were executed in 2010.

Saudi Arabia executed fewer prisoners compared to 2008 and 2009 but the number of executions remains one of the highest: at least 27 individuals were executed.

• The United States

In the United States in 2010, 12 states carried out executions, ending the lives of 46 individuals. Texas, with 17 executions, executed the most prisoners, followed by Ohio (8 executions).

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 73 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 11 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 65/206 on a moratorium the use of the death penalty adopted in December 2010 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 a view to abolishing the death penalty.

The Resolutions of the General Assembly are not legally binding but they have 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 8th World Day: The USA: the Death Penalty Casts a Shadow on Democracy

The USA is one of the few federalist countries which gives the states the power to legislate on the issue of the death penalty. As of 10 March 2011, there are 16 abolitionist states and 34 retentionist states in the USA, although among retentionist states, 8 have not carried out any executions for at least 10 years. 12 states carried out executions in 2010. Alabama, Oklahoma, Ohio, Texas and Virginia were the top executioners. Texas alone executed 17 people, accounting for 40 percent of the executions in the USA.

In recent years, abolitionist measures have been spreading throughout the USA.

According to Amnesty International, death sentences in the USA reached a high in 1994 but have dropped over 60 percent in the past decade.

In 2010, Illinois became the 16th State to abolish the death penalty, closely following New Jersey in 2007 and New Mexico in 2009. Executions and death sentences have declined as well over the past 34 years to reach their lowest levels in 2009 and 2010.

This positive trend towards abolition would not be possible without the development of the abolitionist network that is growing day-by-day in the USA, reflecting the gradual change of civil society towards the abolition of the death penalty.

A Brief History of the Death Penalty in the USA

In the 1930s there were more executions than in any other decade in American history, an average of 167 per year.

In the 1950s, public sentiment began to turn away from capital punishment. Many allied nations either abolished or limited the death penalty, and in the US, the number of executions dropped dramatically.

1972-1976 Moratorium - The issue of arbitrariness of the death penalty was brought before the Supreme Court in 1972 in *Furman v. Georgia*. With the *Furman* decision the Supreme Court set the standard that a punishment would be "cruel and unusual" if it was too severe for the crime, if it was arbitrary, if it offended society's sense of justice, or if it was not more effective than a less severe penalty. The decision led to a 4 year moratorium on the death penalty. The states

USA states that have abolished the death penalty for all crimes:

Alaska, Hawaii, Iowa, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin.

USA states that retain the death penalty but have not carried out any executions in the past 10 years:

Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Wyoming.

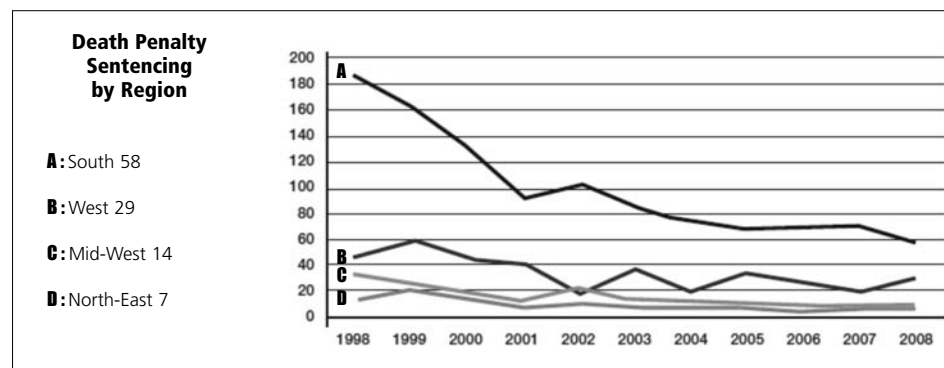
USA retentionist states (states that maintain the death penalty):

Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Washington.

*** The USA Government and USA Military are both retentionist.**

that wanted to maintain the death penalty rewrote their death penalty statutes to eliminate the problems cited in *Furman*.

In March 2005, the Supreme Court in *Roper v. Simmons* ruled that the death penalty for those who had committed their crimes while under 18 years of age was cruel and unusual punishment and hence barred by the Constitution.



The Death Penalty in the USA Today

The two main crimes that can attract a death penalty sentence:

- Murder (all 34 retentionist states + US Government and US Military)
- Felony Murder/Law of Parties (22 retentionist states and US Government)

States and Methods of Executions

The method of execution may depend on a number of factors including, the date the offence was committed, the availability of methods of execution and/or the preference of the person condemned.

- Death by Lethal Injection = 34 (every retentionist state) + US Military and US Government
- Death by Electric Chair = 8 (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Kentucky, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia)
- Death by Gas Chamber = 5 (Arizona, California, Maryland, Missouri, Wyoming)
- Death by Hanging = 2 (New Hampshire and Washington)
- Death by Firing Squad = 2 (Oklahoma and Utah)

The US Government uses the method of execution of the state where the sentence is imposed.

The Failure of a Judicial System that Condemns Innocent People to Death

Since executions resumed in 1977, 138 people have been released from death rows in the USA on grounds of innocence, including nine in 2009.

Factors contributing to the conviction of innocent people in USA capital trials are: unreliable eyewitness evidence, police or prosecutorial error or misconduct, inadequate legal representation, unreliable expert evidence, and false confessions.

Miscarriages of justice in emblematic cases sensitize public opinion. One such case was that of Anthony Porter, who came within 48 hours of execution in Illinois in 1998 after 17 years on death row.

His execution was temporarily stayed, during which time a group of students took up his case and proved his innocence. He was later released.

The Governor of Illinois in 2003 declared a moratorium on executions and commuted the death sentences of all those on the state's death row.

Miscarriages of Justice as a Result of Discrimination

The USA population is 68 percent white, 12 percent black, 15 percent Hispanic and 5 percent other ethnic minorities. However, 42 percent of the death row inmates are black, compared to 44 percent white according to the Death Penalty Information Center, illustrating the disproportionate use of the death penalty on minorities.

Economic status also plays an influential role in determining who is sentenced to death. Most death row inmates come from poor backgrounds and cannot afford high legal expenses. Neither income nor race is a legitimate factor in the application of the law.

There are Better Ways to Make Us Safe

Although state expenses related to the death penalty are different in each state, they are very high throughout the USA. On average, each state will pay one million dollars more for a death penalty trial than for a non death penalty trial because the trial procedure is different.

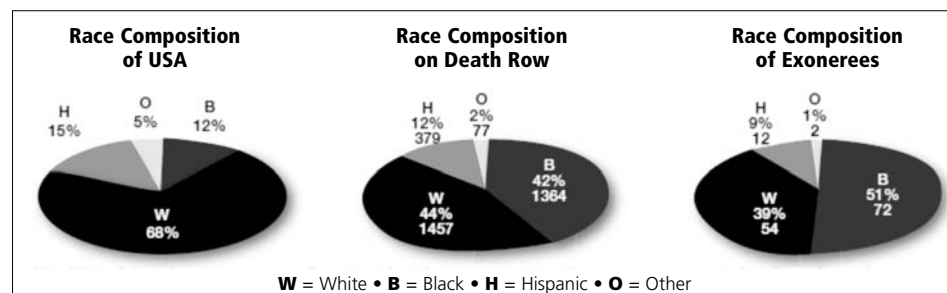
In California, the largest state, a State Commission recently found that the cost of the inefficient death penalty, with a delay of over 22 years between sentence and execution, is \$125 million per year over and above the cost of permanent imprisonment. It is even more reprehensible that these expenses could be used for other purposes such as more effective law enforcement measures.

[Clarence Brandley

SENTENCED IN 1981 • EXONERATED IN 1991

Accused of the murder of 16 year old female

Brandley was working as a high school custodian in Conroe, Texas, in 1980, when police arrested him for the murder of Cheryl Ferguson, a 16-year-old student. While the police interviewed Brandley and one of his white co-workers, an interrogator proclaimed that, "One of you two is going to hang for this," and told Clarence, "Since you're the nigger, you're elected." In his first trial he faced an all-white jury. One juror refused to convict, causing a hung jury, and was met with a constant barrage of harassment and threats after the trial ended, ridiculed for being a "nigger-lover". Clarence's second all-white jury convicted him, and in 1981 he was sentenced to death. A year later it was revealed that the majority of the murder investigation's physical evidence had mysteriously disappeared while under police control. In 1986 a new witness stepped forward claiming to know the real murderer. Yet Clarence's defense was repeatedly denied a new trial. With an execution date set for March 27, 1987, a vocal protest movement around his case began to grow. In October of 1987, after extensive hearings detailing prosecutorial misconduct, the judge declared, "In the thirty years that this court has presided over matters in the judicial system, no case has presented a more shocking scenario of the effects of racial prejudice... And public officials who lost sight of what is right and just."



In March 2010, a Fox News article on the cost of capital punishment stated that *“Every time a killer is sentenced to die, a school is closed. That is the broad assessment of a growing number of studies taking a cold, hard look at how much the death penalty costs in the 35 states that still have it.”*

A 2009 report by the Death Penalty Information Center showed that the nation’s police chiefs rank the death penalty last in their priorities for effective crime reduction, that they do not believe the death penalty acts as a deterrent to murder, and they rate it as one of most inefficient uses of taxpayer dollars in fighting crime.

As well, a growing number of murder victims’ families say that money spent on the death penalty would be better used to increase victim’s services and meet their needs in the aftermath of a homicide.

[Randy Steidl

SENTENCED IN 1986 • EXONERATED IN 2004

Accused of a murder of newlyweds

Randy Steidl had poor representation, no DNA evidence to clear him, and witnesses who fabricated testimony against him due to police misconduct. An investigation by Illinois State police proved that local law enforcement and prosecutors had framed Randy and co-defendant Herbert Whitlock.

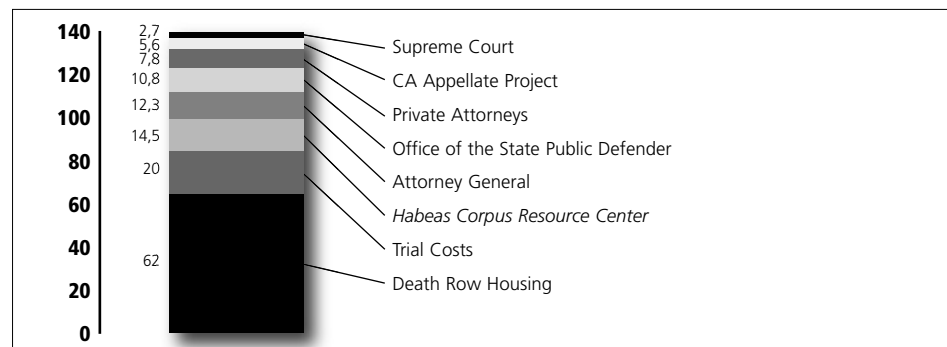
In 2003, Federal judge Michael McCuskey overturned Randy’s conviction and ordered a new trial, stating that if the proper evidence had been originally investigated and presented it was *“reasonably probable”* that Randy would have been acquitted by the jury. The state re-investigated the case, tested DNA evidence, and found no link to Randy.

[2] The World Coalition’s Aim for Greater Mobilisation



Rally in California for the 2010 World Day.

DEATH PENALTY COSTS EACH YEAR FROM CALIFORNIA (\$ MILLIONS)



“Take action because you can save lives.”

Antoinette Chahine, Lebanese exoneree speaking at a 2010 World Day event

Reaching out to New Actors

Increased Activism in the United States

This 8th World Day was an opportunity to work with new partners and widen the scope of the event, particularly in the United States. Although several American organisations are members of the World Coalition, few of them have been involved in previous World Days and this was an excellent way of understanding why and changing it.

By organising and participating in four large abolitionist events over the course of a year in Louisville (Kentucky), San Francisco (California), Washington DC and Chicago (Illinois), the World Coalition was able to consolidate efforts and show American activists that they are not alone and that international action can be effective in the United States too.

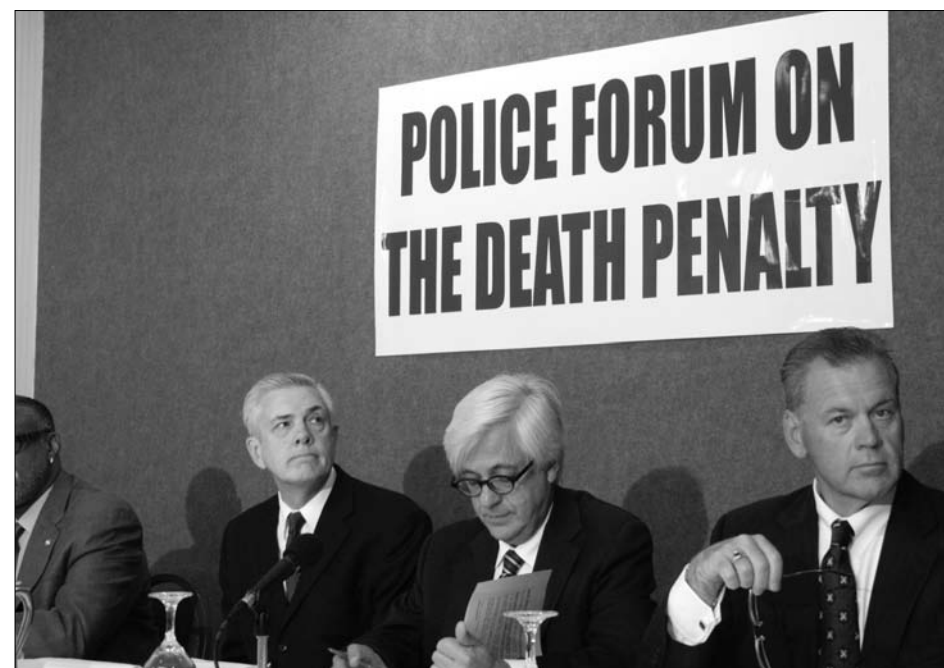
In order to define its strategy, the World Coalition acted very early. In January 2010 at the annual conference of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty in Kentucky it announced its desire to involve the American network to a greater extent. During a workshop to present the World Coalition's work, participants were able to say what they expected from international action. Following that conference, five new American organisations, including the highly respected Equal Justice USA, applied to join the World Coalition and they are now members. The

number of American members of the World Coalition has therefore increased from 16 to 21.

The Coalition then consulted American abolitionists at all stages of preparation for the World Day. In particular, they questioned the relevance of an international petition to demand an end to executions in the United States. For most of the American abolitionist organisations the death penalty is a local problem. The United States is a rare federal nation where each State has the power to legislate on the issue of the death penalty. It is already very difficult for American abolitionists to work at a national level and international pressure seems a long way away. In their view, it is not very helpful and can even be counterproductive. 2010 was also an election year which made any international pressure even more difficult.

For all these reasons, the World Coalition therefore decided not to organise a petition or appeal to the American authorities. Instead, the American organisations suggested concentrating international action on supporting those who are fighting at the local level, particularly to give them some legitimacy.

In June 2010 the World Coalition's General Assembly was held at the University of California in San Francisco and brought together nearly two hundred participants for an event which was open to the public. Organised by members of the World Coalition based in the city, including Death Penalty Focus, the meeting discussed issues connected to the application of the death penalty in the United States and across the world. The plenary sessions led to a better



Press Conference: "Fighting crime in the United States and around the world: is the death penalty necessary?" Washington DC, October 2010.

understanding of the so-called "American exceptionalism" in terms of human rights and the death penalty, and discrimination on death row, particularly with regard to Latin Americans. Workshops concentrated on the importance during debates of hearing from victims' families, exonerees and police officers, as well as mechanisms for appeal and arguments about the cost of the death penalty in the country.

The Chair of the Democratic Party in California, John Burton, also participated at the event, saying that "I am proud that Californian activists in my party have decided to include abolition of the death penalty in my State in their programme". Elections were

held a few months later in November and, despite an aggressive retentionist campaign against the abolitionist agenda of the Californian Democrats, most citizens voted for the latter.

To mark the World Day, the World Coalition co-organised with influential American NGOs such as the Death Penalty Information Center, Death Penalty Focus and Equal Justice USA a press conference on 13 October 2010 in Washington DC under the heading "Fighting Crime in the US and Internationally: Is the Death Penalty Necessary?". The panellists, all police officers or prosecutors who oppose the death penalty, spoke of their experience in the fight against

crime and their doubts as to the deterrent effect of the death penalty and its consequences for victims' families. What made this press conference distinctive was that it brought together both American and European police officers and prosecutors, thereby giving it an international dimension.

In January 2011, a year after the conference in Kentucky, the National Coalition met in Chicago, Illinois. The workshop to present the World Coalition's work was held again and attracted even more participants. 25 in 2010, they numbered nearly fifty in 2011, including representatives from the five new members which joined in 2010.

Finally, a few days before the conference, the Illinois Senate adopted a draft law to abolish the death penalty in the State. Governor Quinn then had sixty days to sign the law or use his veto power. After discussion with its American members, and to support the efforts of the Illinois Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, the World Coalition published several articles and an interview with the Executive Director of the Illinois Coalition, Jeremy Schroeder, and called on its members to send letters requesting that the Governor sign the law, emphasising the international context.

The Governor eventually signed the law on 9 March 2011 after receiving nearly 12,000 appeals for abolition of the death penalty, compared to 700 opposing the law.

This decision will remain a symbol of the success of the 8th World Day Against the Death Penalty which focused on the United States.

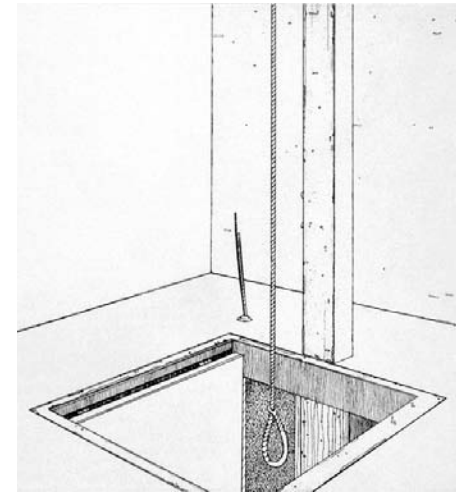
Growing Recognition of 10 October as the Official Day

The World Coalition also took action in 2010 to increase the involvement of intergovernmental organisations for greater recognition of 10 October as the official world day against the death penalty.

Within the framework of the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review, in April 2010 the World Coalition submitted information on the death penalty in the United States for the review in November 2010.

Co-signed by most of the American members of the World Coalition and submitted by the US Human Rights Network, this document underlined the problems connected to the application of the death penalty in the US. For example, it explained that conditions of detention violated international standards, that significant levels of discrimination tainted the practice of capital punishment and that the United States had still not implemented the *Avena and Other Mexican Nationals* judgement of the International Court of Justice. During the review of the United States in November 2010, 27 states, including Algeria, Australia, Mexico, Russia and several European states, recommended that the United States introduce a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing of the death penalty.

In response to these recommendations, a representative of the American delegation indicated that he himself was against the application of the death penalty and that the issue was subject to lively debate in the United States but that the death penalty was not



"Trap Door Gallows". Ink on Paper, Robert Priseman.

prohibited under international law and that each State had the right to decide whether or not to use it.

The impressive number of countries recommending that the United States end application of the death penalty reflects a growing trend towards open debate on the death penalty within UN institutions. In 2010 three reports on the death penalty were debated in various UN forums: the UNODC, the Economic and Social Council, the Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly. For each report, the World Coalition submitted information, was cited, participated in the debates, and organised side events to broaden the discussion. On each occasion, it talked about the World Day Against the Death Penalty, emphasising the importance of recognising it with the ultimate goal of progressively moving forward until it was seen as legitimate.

The Coalition's work was significantly different with the European institutions. In 2007 the World Day had officially become the European Day Against the Death Penalty through a joint decision by the European Union and the Council of Europe. The World Coalition therefore did not have to convince these institutions of the relevance of the date, but it did have to ensure that they would take action.

The role of the European institutions was even more important for this 8th World Day as it was focusing on the United States, one of the European Union's main partners with observer status at the Council of Europe. It was also important as in December 2010 a new resolution for a moratorium on the death penalty was put to the vote at the UN.

Activism by the European institutions and European states has been truly impressive. The European Parliament voted for a resolution of several pages calling on the United States to "*immediately establish a moratorium on executions*". The European Parliament's Human Rights Sub-committee also invited the World Coalition to participate in a hearing on the fate of European nationals on death row in the United States. Finally, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs, Lady Ashton, and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Thorbjorn Jagland, published a joint declaration beginning with these words: "*The death penalty is cruel and inhuman, it violates human dignity and the fundamental human rights on which the two organisations are founded*". The Council of Europe was a partner in the Poster for Tomorrow project, having itself contacted the World Coalition to request its association with

this anti-death penalty project. A report by Renate Wohlwend, rapporteur on the death penalty for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, published in 2011, also raised the issue of the death penalty in the United States. Finally, the annual conference of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights was held on 7th October to discuss the annual report on the death penalty in the OSCE zone which includes the United States. The World Coalition and other NGOs and European States participated, questioning the United States and highlighting the 8th World Day. The United States and Belarus are the only two States (out of 56) in the OSCE which continue to execute prisoners sentenced to death.

Perhaps of even more significance as regards to official recognition of the World Day in Europe is how it is used by certain European States. For example, France used the opportunity to organise conferences in several retentionist states such as Tajikistan, Democratic Republic of Congo and Cameroon. The United Kingdom organised similar events in Trinidad & Tobago, as did Germany in Taiwan. Last but not least, the International Commission against the Death Penalty was launched in Madrid, Spain for the World Day (see *press release Annexe 2, p.64*).

The involvement of European States and institutions is crucial to encourage recognition of the legitimacy of 10th October. However, this day must not solely bet European. To solve this, the World Coalition must continue its work with other intergovernmental organisations such as the UN and regional

organisations such as the African Union, the Organisation of American States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Expanding to New Audiences

In its assessment of the 8th World Day, FIACAT, a member of the World Coalition, said that *“activism for the World Day by the media and international intergovernmental organisations was a real success. However, it must not be forgotten that this day must remain a day of action for as many people as possible.”*

This is why the World Coalition has been associated with artistic projects for several years.

After a partnership in 2009 with the British artist Robert Priseman for his book *No Human Way to Kill*, the World Coalition was involved in the Poster for Tomorrow project in 2010. This international competition to find posters promoting human rights focused on



« It must be stopped », Poster 4 Tomorrow, Natalia Lazarashvil, Géorgie.

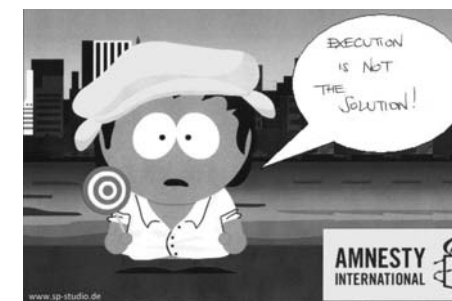
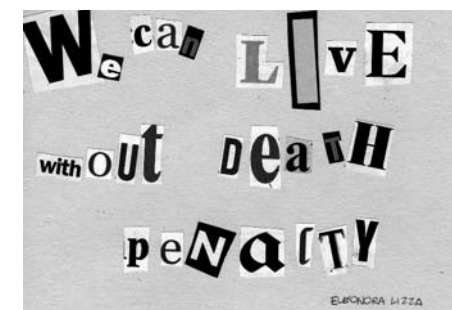
the abolition of the death penalty in 2010. Although aimed particularly at artists and graphic designers, it was open to all and anyone could enter his or her submission. A jury of international experts chose the one hundred best posters from more than 2,090 received from 67 countries around the world.

They then brought it to the attention of the general public with fifty exhibitions around the world for the World Day, encouraging debate in countries such as Iran and China where civil society faces an uphill battle.

Another artistic initiative promoted by the World Coalition was the creation of a giant mosaic made up of thousands of paper or digital postcards for the World Day. The idea was to relay this immense composite image around the world via the internet and through various activities in the United States as a sign of international support for American abolitionists.

The World Coalition received more than 1,500 cards which constituted a relative failure.

A number of member organisations of the Coalition recognised that they were disconcerted by this new form of activism and regretted that there was no international petition but this had been the wish of the American abolitionists.



Top: Examples of postcards created for the World Day.
Bottom: “JUSTICE/EDALAT”, Poster 4 Tomorrow, Aida Torkamani Asl, Iran.



Information and Activism Tools

As in previous years, the World Coalition made information and mobilisation tools available to its members, the media and anyone seeking to participate in the World Day to raise awareness and encourage local activism in as many countries as possible, particularly in States which still apply the death penalty.

All the tools are available upon request and can be downloaded on the World Coalition's website:

<http://www.worldcoalition.org/worldday>

World Day Poster

4,000 copies were printed in English and French. It was distributed to all members of the World Coalition and organisers of events who could order it free from the World Coalition's Executive Secretariat. It was also available in six languages (French, English, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese and German) online where it was downloaded six hundred times.

Example of use in Cameroon:

- ACAT Cameroon distributed the posters at an official dinner organised by the French Ambassador to Cameroon in the presence of representatives from the Cameroon Government and NGOs.
- The Cameroon organisation Droits et Paix used the posters in its press files and communication tools. It was displayed at the Bonanjo-Douala law courts, the prison in New-Bell, the location of the organisation's conference and at its headquarters.

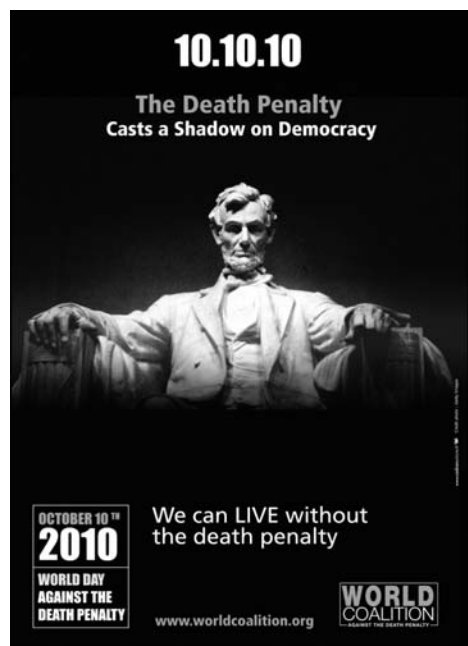
Information Leaflet

The information leaflet for the 2010 World Day set out the World Coalition's demands with regard to the United States and provided a summary of capital punishment in that country. It had to be reprinted three times to meet the needs of the World Coalition members and was printed a total of 8,000 times in English and French, and downloaded 650 times from the World Coalition's website.

[The World Coalition was contacted by several educational establishments and students wanting to use the leaflet in their lessons, including in France, Greece, Liberia and South Korea.]

Map of the Death Penalty in the United States

This map illustrates the use of the death penalty in the United States, state by state. It was



included in the information leaflet and on the 2010 World Day web page. It was downloaded 400 times in French and English.

Mobilisation Kit

Produced as a guide for organisers, it suggests events, provides information about the World Day and the theme chosen. It also provides the contact details of members by country. It was sent to all members and downloaded nearly 200 times in French and 460 times in English.

Country Fact Sheets

The seven detailed information sheets on the death penalty in the United States were downloaded nearly 300 times in French and 600 times in English.

10 Things You Can Do on 10.10.10

This new document suggested ten things to do within the framework of the 2010 World Day, for example participate in an international art project, organise an event or write to prisoners sentenced to death. It also gave ten tips for a successful event. It was sent to all members and downloaded 500 times in French and English.

Facts and Figures on the Death Penalty

This information document on application of the death penalty across the world in 2009 was downloaded nearly 500 times in French and 800 times in English.

“We found these country fact sheets very helpful, particularly the sections with graphics and pie charts which we used during our press conference”.

TAEDP

Internet Banner

The banner was to be displayed on the websites of all those who wanted to take part in the World Day and directed people to the 2010 World Day web page on the World Coalition's website. It was downloaded more than 200 times in French and English.

Press Release

The press release was sent to all members of the World Coalition on 1st October for circulation and as a template for their own press releases.

For example Pax Christi Uvira used it in its work with the media: *"The World Coalition press release was read out in its entirety on local and national radio stations in the Democratic Republic of Congo"*.

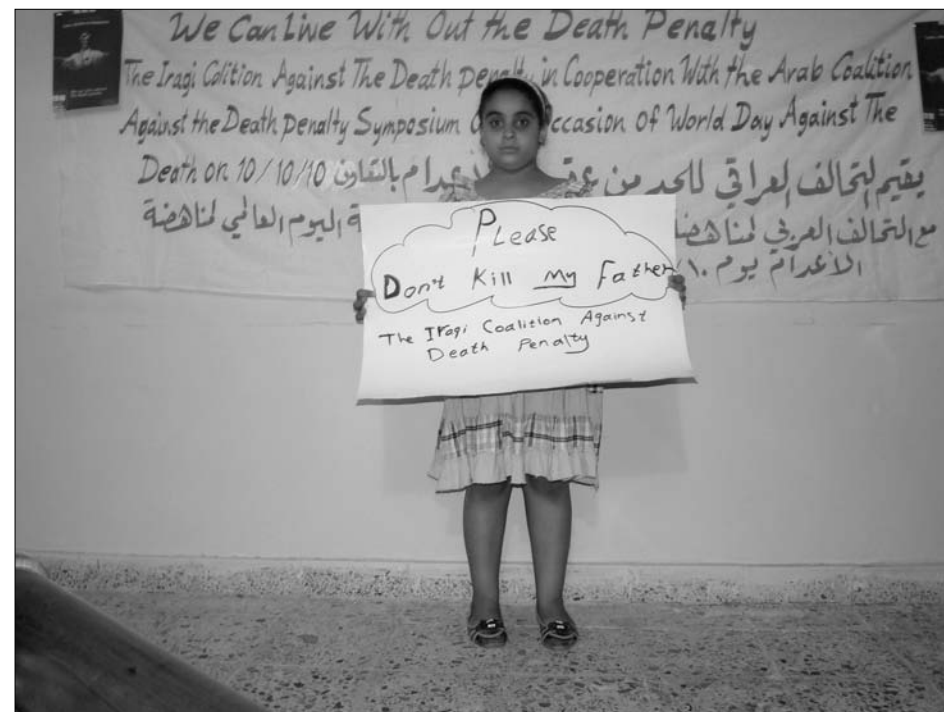


Website

The World Day page alone was consulted nearly 20,000. Most members indicated that they had used it at least once a day in the period around the World Day, essentially to obtain general information but also to download documents and find out more about the World Coalition's activities.

The Cameroon organisation Droits et Paix used the World Coalition's website to obtain information about their conference theme: *"De facto moratorium on abolition in law of the death penalty in Cameroon"*. *"The article 'Moratorium on abolition: Africa wants to take the plunge' was a source of inspiration for us"*.

[3] Initiatives by Region



"Please do not kill my father". Iraqi Coalition against the Death Penalty, World Day 2010.

"The website was a source of inspiration about what action to take and a source of documentation for understanding notions relating to the death penalty, particularly so as to be able to respond to journalists' questions."

ACAT Burundi

"It was the first time we had participated in the World Day and we were impressed by the list of people who participated. The impact was very good internationally but national media coverage was limited."

KONTRAS, Indonésie



Rally in Texas, USA, for the World Day 2010.

In total, 440 initiatives were reported in 56 countries across five continents, a considerable increase in the number of initiatives of which the Coalition secretariat was aware compared to previous years, both in terms of the action taken and the countries involved.

The increase can be explained partly by the fact that it was relatively easy to take action "against executions in the United States". The World Coalition had also tried to respond to a recurrent comment from its members that action was often launched late in the day.

Finally, the World Coalition's efforts to form alliances with new actors seem to have borne fruit, particularly thanks to the *Poster for Tomorrow* project which reached most retentionist countries including as Belarus, China and Iran.

In their entirety, 2010's initiatives were much more diverse and better coordinated. More joint actions were organised by several organisations which are members of the World Coalition, guaranteeing better impact.

“Overall, we think that activism for the 2010 World Day was impressive. We were struck by the scope of participation with, for example, the involvement of bloggers in Iran and the European Parliament vote on a resolution against the death penalty.”

Evaluation of the World Day by a member of the World Coalition

ASIA-PACIFIC

(30 EVENTS IN 15 COUNTRIES)



Conference in India (see Appendix 2) for the 2010 World Day.

Although the figures for this year were up compared to last year, Asia remains one of the least engaged continents, compared to its population. It is also the area where the World Coalition has the least representation with only nine members in seven countries. However, these members are very active as seven of the nine organised events. Nonetheless, most activities were organised by the national sections of Amnesty International. The World Coalition must confront this deficit in Asia and with the recent membership of ADPAN (the

Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network), which includes more than 50 organisations, there is hope that in the future, activism will increase on this continent which is in such need of support.

MALAYSIA

■ Amnesty International Malaysia

Theatre production of a play called *Banduan Akhir* which tells the story of Yong Vui King, a young Malaysian sentenced to death in Singapore. Amongst other things, this play highlighted all the issues related to the use of the death penalty.

■ Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty

The 3rd Film Festival on the death penalty called "*Dialogue between Asia and the world*" was held in Taipei for the World Day. It brought together nearly 2,000 participants who were able to see American, European and Asian films about the death penalty and miscarriages of justice.

For more information: www.taedp-film2010.blogspot.com

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

(49 EVENTS IN 12 COUNTRIES)

Nearly twice as many events took place than in 2009.

Of the 21 members in the World Coalition from Sub-Saharan Africa, nearly half organised activities.

Most of these organisations have one thing in common: they recently joined the World Coalition and this was the first time they had participated in the World Day Against the Death Penalty. Four sections of Amnesty International, four ACAT groups organised through the FIACAT network and a few members of the Community of St Egidio also took part. Most of these organisations also responded to the World Day assessment questionnaire and indicated their interest in increasing their involvement in the years to come.

The World Day also enabled members of the World Coalition and their affiliates to network. For instance, Droits et Paix in Cameroon said that following the World Day *“the Community of St Egidio in Douala, which we did not know about, asked us to contribute to their international day of “Cities for life, towns against the death penalty”.*

BENIN

■ **L’ACAT Parakou** used the posters made available by the World Coalition to raise awareness among young people in schools, judges and lawyers from the Appeal Court, and guards from Parakou’s prisons. The organisation also organised debates in the city’s secondary schools.

MAURITANIE

■ **Coalition Mauritanienne contre la peine de mort** organised a series of both concrete and strategic events for the World Day, including a visit from prisoners sentenced to death in Nouakchott, a conference on how to achieve abolition of the death penalty and an internal meeting on the activities of the Mauritanian Coalition and its future.

TANZANIA

■ **The Legal and Human Rights Center**, in collaboration with three other Tanzanian organisations (SHARINGON, ZLSC and TLS), organised a training session on the death penalty for thirty journalists. This training session was particularly successful because it led to three weeks of media coverage on the theme of the death penalty in the country.

PRACTICAL WORKSHEET 1

How to Organise a Week of Activities in Schools to Raise Awareness

- ▶ Get in touch with a network of teachers (teaching unions, etc.) if there is one or other organisations from civil society working in human rights in your town; ask your personal network working in the teaching world.
- ▶ Contact the establishments in your town as soon as term starts and suggest contributing to their classes on the World Day.
- ▶ Use the Teaching Guide published by the World Coalition to prepare your activity (pay attention to the age of the pupils, the number and their level of knowledge).
- ▶ Make sure you have sufficient material (posters, leaflets, information sheets, etc.) by ordering them from the World Coalition’s Executive Secretariat.
- ▶ Ask for help from people who could talk about their experiences (exonerees, victims’families against the death penalty, families of prisoners sentenced to death, etc.).

THE AMERICAS

(67 EVENTS IN 10 COUNTRIES)

Unprecedented activism in the United States.

About 60 events were reported across the country, the most since the World Day Against the Death Penalty began (in 2009 13 events were organised, compared to 8 in 2008 and 11 in 2007). These events were also remarkable because they brought together a number of national abolitionist players at events such as the Journey of Hope in Texas and the conference in Washington, and regional players through, for example, the broadcast of the debate on the death penalty in New York in 29 universities throughout the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. In Latin America almost all the events were connected to the Poster for Tomorrow project presenting the one hundred best posters against the death penalty.

■ The United States: No Human Way to Kill'

A year after publication of a book of his drawings of execution chambers and accounts of the atrocity of the death penalty, the artist Robert Priseman was again involved in an initiative from the Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex in the United Kingdom: a live debate from the White Box art gallery in New York. Called *No Human Way to Kill*, the debate raised themes of pardons, justice and human rights with accounts from Renny Cushing, Director of Murder Victims Families for Human Rights, Cathy Harrington

who had negotiated life imprisonment for the killer of her daughter, Anne Coleman whose daughter was also murdered, Barbara Lewis whose son spent twenty years on death row and Maddy deLone, Director of the Innocence Project. The debate was broadcast live in 26 universities in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom where students were able to ask the participants questions. The artist's work was also exhibited and an online gallery created for the World Day on 10/10/10.

■ Fighting Crime in the US and Internationally: Is the Death Penalty Necessary?'

This debate, organised at the Washington Press Club by the Death Penalty Information Center, Death Penalty Focus and Equal Justice USA, aimed particularly at journalists, police officers and prosecutors. Called *Fighting Crime in the US and Internationally: Is the Death Penalty Necessary?*, it was attended by James Abbot, West Orange Chief of Police in New Jersey, Bob Denmark from Lancashire in the United Kingdom, a former detective, Antonio Cluny, Portuguese Attorney General and prosecutor, and Ronald Hampton, Director of America's National Black Police Association. They all reached the same conclusion: the death penalty does not contribute to reducing the number of the most dreadful crimes.

PRACTICAL WORKSHEET 2

How to Organise a Conference with Police Officers, Victims' Families and Exonerees

- ▶ Plan your event in advance (at least two or three months) so that you have time to contact these people and ensure that they are available.
- ▶ Define your target audience (general public, media, lawyers, students, etc.) and the scope of the event (a select group of twenty people, fifty or one hundred people or more).
- ▶ Define the theme of your debate/conference/discussion.
- ▶ Make sure the project is clear and realistic - you will have more chance of interesting participants and will increase your chances of success.
- ▶ Contact the World Coalition to find out who to contact to invite the speakers you want.
- ▶ Once you have their agreement, fix the place and date of the conference.
- ▶ One month in advance, send out invitations and begin to publicise the event on your website, by talking to your networks, etc.
- ▶ One week in advance, send out a press release with the exact place, date and time, the theme of the conference and the name of the participants. If you are aiming for the general public, think about printing posters and displaying them around the conference location.
- ▶ The day before the event send the press release to the media again and ensure that all your contacts will indeed be present. Often, telephone reminders guarantee the availability of those who are interested but have busy diaries.

1. For more information: http://www.essex.ac.uk/human_rights_centre/publications/NoHumanWayToKill.aspx
2. For more information: <http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/international-police-forum-death-penalty>

EUROPE

(280 EVENTS IN 15 COUNTRIES)

The World Day is increasingly institutionalized in Europe. As in previous years, the World Day was widely observed by professional organisations and NGOs. It was also widely used by states and European institutions to advocate against the death penalty.

■ “Flash Mob” in Paris, France ¹

All the Parisian members of the World Coalition, under the coordination of ECPM, came together on 10th October for a Flash Mob, an event set to music with choreography representing the various methods of execution.



Flash Mob in Paris, October 10, 2010.

More than one hundred people suddenly began to move to the rhythm of the music opposite the Pompidou Centre. The media and activists who had been told about the event in advance joined in and there were thousands of spectators.



Electric Chair, Bertozzi-Casoni.

■ International Museum of Ceramics, Faenza, Italy

For the exhibition of two life-size ceramic electric chairs, created by Italian artists Luigi Ontani and Bertozzi & Casoni, the International Museum of Ceramics in Faenza hosted a conference on the death penalty in the United States.

1. “A Flash Mob is a group of people who assemble suddenly in a public place, perform an unusual and sometimes seemingly pointless act for a brief time, then disperse.” (source : *Wikipedia*)
Watch the video of the Flash Mob : <http://www.youtube.com/user/AssociationECPM>.

PRACTICAL WORKSHEET 3

How to Organise a Flash Mob

- ▶ A month in advance find a rousing piece of music and choreography which is easy to follow while still retaining meaning. If needed, ask for help from a choreographer.
- ▶ Work on the choreography with a small group to see if it works. It should last between 2 to 5 minutes.
- ▶ Find a busy place where the Flash Mob will take place. If need be, make an official request to use it.
- ▶ When the choreography is working well, ideally two weeks in advance, film yourselves and put a tutorial online for people to start practising at home.
- ▶ Start to publicise the event, using social media such as Facebook and Twitter but also through the usual channels (emails, newsletters, etc.).
- ▶ Before the official Flash Mob, plan two meetings with a sufficiently large group to be able to initiate the movement on the day.
- ▶ Choose the date, if possible depending on the weather (it always works better if the sun is shining).
- ▶ Announce the exact time and place only a few days beforehand to maintain suspense (particularly if you do not have official authorisation).
- ▶ You can also choose a dress code.
- ▶ Plan access to electricity or a generator and speakers so that the music is loud enough.
- ▶ Scrupulously respect the time and place of the meeting.
- ▶ Film the Flash Mob and put the video online quickly (if possible the same day) to create buzz on the internet.
- ▶ At the end, if you want, explain why you have organised the event and be ready to answer questions from journalists.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

(14 ACTIONS DANS 4 PAYS)

Activism remains very difficult in the region. Activists are often isolated and the general public is not very receptive to their arguments. By using graphic art, particularly the exhibition of the one hundred best posters in the Poster for Tomorrow competition, for the first time in the history of the World Day it was possible to reach an audience in Iran, admittedly in difficult conditions.



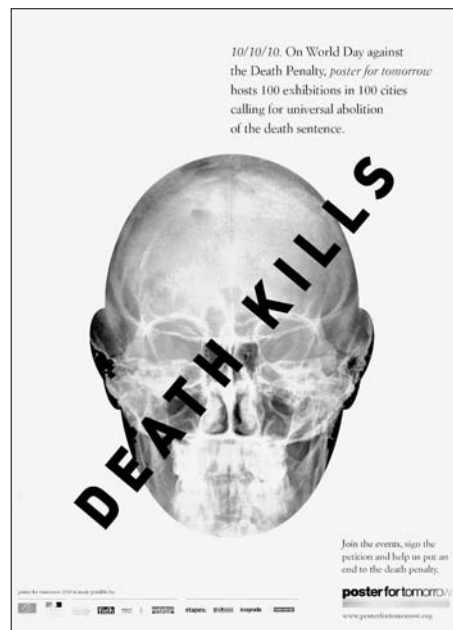
Antoinette Chahine, Lebanese exonerees speaking at a 2010 World Day event.

■ French Embassy in Lebanon

At the initiative of the French Embassy in Lebanon, a debate on the death penalty was organised with two exonerees from Lebanon: Antoinette Chahine and Youssef Khansa and with the French Ambassador to Lebanon.

■ Exhibition of "Poster for Tomorrow" in Iran

Despite the risks taken by the organisers of these exhibitions, the one hundred best posters in the Poster for Tomorrow competition were exhibited in four Iranian towns: in Teheran, Mashad, Kermanshah and Shiraz.



Visual for the project "Poster for Tomorrow".

PRACTICAL WORKSHEET 4

How to Organise an Exhibition of "Poster for Tomorrow" Posters

- ▶ Find a place for the exhibition, for example a well-known art gallery, museum, garden or square, a public place, a university, a library, an underground station, a shop window, etc.
- ▶ More than six months are often required to reserve prestigious places such as temporary exhibition spaces in museums but two or three months would suffice for a public place. Unusual places are often very interesting but the procedure can be more complicated.
- ▶ To guarantee your chances of success, be organised in advance and get to know the managers of the exhibition area, suggesting they sponsor the project.
- ▶ Contact the World Coalition for electronic copies of the posters.
- ▶ Print the posters depending on where they will be exhibited (if outside cover them in protective plastic, if in a museum think about hanging, etc.).
- ▶ Prepare the official opening of the exhibition, if possible with an important speaker who could talk about the death penalty (contact the World Coalition if necessary).
- ▶ Invite the media, your network of activists, engaged artists, academics, students, and those in the artistic scene, etc.
- ▶ Prepare the exhibition and don't forget to prepare drinks and a buffet.
- ▶ If you have informed the press, prepare a press kit with information about the exhibition, the Poster for Tomorrow competition and the World Day Against the Death Penalty.

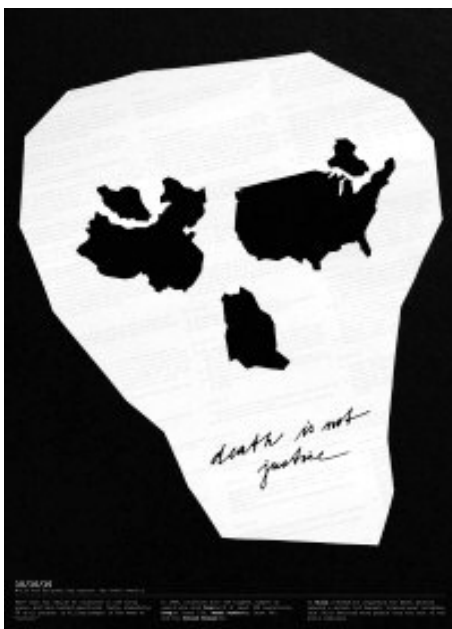
[4] Media Coverage



Conference in Uvira, DRC, for World Day 2010.

“
*Media coverage was very good and our events
for the World Day led to the media talking about the death penalty
for three weeks.*”

Legal and Human Rights Center, Tanzania



"SKULL", Poster 4 Tomorrow, Bladimir Trejo, España, Ecuador.

Media coverage of the death penalty at this time of year has continued to grow since the World Day began.

The appended press review includes more than 280 press cuts from 52 countries around the world, compared to 130 articles published in 31 countries in 2009.

The mainstream traditional media discuss the subject through individual cases or in-depth articles and local media generally communicate announcements of events organised for the World Day.

New media are also an excellent source for activists and online activism campaigns have multiplied this year, albeit with mixed results.

Press Review by Region

As in previous years, national and local media coverage largely depended on the events organised for the World Day. With big events, the media gave the World Day good coverage. It would seem that in many countries the World Day alone does not constitute an event to be taken up by the media but local initiatives facilitate interest.

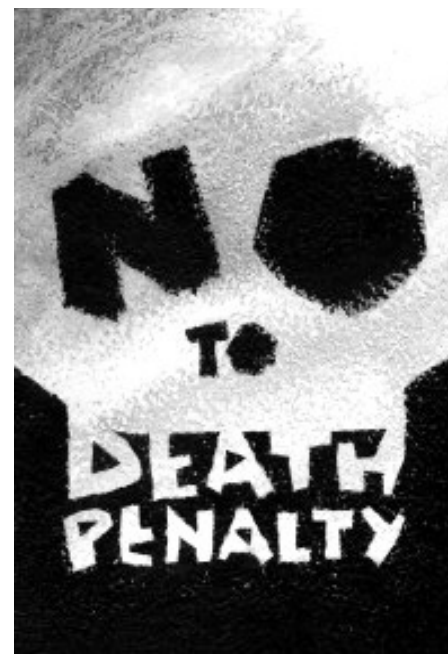
In the United States the media coverage compiled was mainly by abolitionists. The information was generally national and regional, discussing the situation of the death penalty in the country or, more specifically, the situation in Texas for example. On the rest of the American continent articles tended to mention the World Day generally and some media outlets, as in Europe, examined the case of Iran.

In Africa media coverage was impressive compared to previous years. The link with the events organised was clear and it is a very good sign that the African media has taken a firm interest in the theme of the death penalty.

In the Middle East and North Africa the articles compiled remained mainly confined to Morocco.

In Asia the Taiwanese press still published the most articles. However, it is difficult to assess all the publications in the numerous Asian languages.

Finally, media coverage is still greatest in Europe. Inequalities in terms of representation are also linked to the feedback provided by members of the Coalition. In France, for example, the entire press review of *Ensemble contre la peine de mort* was transmitted to the World Coalition with more than seventy articles and television or radio shows.



"Death Map", Poster 4 Tomorrow, Jan Sabach, USA.

New Sources of Information and Online Activism

More than 120 blogs, websites of human rights activists, Facebook pages and tweets publicised the World Day across the world.

This confirms the trend according to which new media have their role to play in spreading information about taking action for the World Day Against the Death Penalty.

One of the best examples is the "*blogging game*" launched on the occasion of World Day Against the Death Penalty on October 10 by Iranian bloggers to protest against the death penalty and executions in the Islamic republic of Iran. Bloggers have written posts condemning the high number of Iranian executions, sharing memories of when they first became acquainted with execution and how it affected them, and reasons they think executing people is wrong.

Blogger "Goresch" (Roar), who initiated the "game," writes that he was seven years old when he heard the word "execution" for the first time. He says he was watching television with his family on a cold winter evening in Arak when he heard a voice coming from a loudspeaker outside inviting people to attend a public execution the next day¹.

1. Read more here: http://www.rferl.org/content/Blogging_Against_The_Death_Penalty/2186895.html



To cite just two other examples, the website of Simon Shephard, Director of the Death Penalty Action Network¹, a member of the World Coalition, and the Facebook page of Gilles Denizot from Journey of Hope... from Violence to Healing, another member of the World Coalition, are impressive.

The latter² has more than 1200 followers on Facebook and 1100 on Twitter. The former has more than 4000 followers on Facebook and almost 1000 followers on Twitter in seven different languages.

With much more limited results, the Coalition had decided to develop its online network and its digital communication techniques for this World Day. In particular, it created a Facebook page which is followed by more than 1200 people and a Twitter account followed by 520

and included in 56 lists connected to the death penalty. It also publishes videos on Dailymotion and Youtube.

Finally, by working with Makeet.com, it developed an online event where each user could create a virtual postcard to be added to the mosaic to support American abolitionists.

This new kind of activism replaced the online petition from previous years. Whereas the petition was signed online by 1,500 people on average, only 56 e-cards were created for the 2010 World Day. Such a low level of interest in online activism on the World Coalition's website is corroborated by the assessments of members of the Coalition which saw the website more as a tool for information than activism.

1. <http://www.deathpenaltyaction.net/>
 2. <http://www.facebook.com/GILLESDENIZOT>

PRACTICAL WORKSHEET 5

How to Guarantee Good Media Coverage of your Events

- ▶ Forge links with local journalists interested in the subject: throughout the year follow local media coverage and find the media outlets and journalists who often raise the theme of the death penalty. Also, find out how they discuss it: what news section, what angle, etc.
- ▶ Contact them in the summer or September to tell them about the World Day Against the Death Penalty (so that they put it in their diaries) and your event as a way of making yourself known.
- ▶ Try to become their yardstick for the subject by always responding quickly to journalists and providing them with reliable information, particularly that provided by the World Coalition.
- ▶ To maximise your chances of success, organise an event with one or two witness accounts. Journalists like to use personal stories and, if you provide them with the opportunity, they will talk about your event.
- ▶ Send out a press release a week before your event with the exact place, date and time, the title of the event, the names of the participants, a brief description of your event and a paragraph on the World Day (you can use the press release provided by the Coalition).
- ▶ Specify that participants will be available for interview at the event.
- ▶ Send it again the day before the event if you have not had confirmation from journalists who might be interested.
- ▶ Only hold a press conference if you have something specific to announce (a position taken following an execution in your country, abolition of the death penalty for some crimes, etc.).

[5] Follow-up to the World Day



Demonstration in Rabat, Morocco, for the World Day 2010.

Abolition Marching on

Since publication of the report of the 2009 World Day, the global abolitionist trend has been confirmed.

In one year Gabon and the State of Illinois in the United States have abolished the death penalty, Mongolia has declared an official moratorium on executions and Vietnam and China have reduced the number of crimes punishable by death. Kyrgyzstan ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Another important moment at the end of 2010 was the vote by the UN General Assembly on the third Resolution for a moratorium on application of the death penalty.

Sponsored by a growing number of States, it reaffirmed Resolutions 62/149 and 63/168 of 18 December 2007 and 2008 for a moratorium on application of the death penalty and recognised the existence of a global trend towards the abolition of the death penalty.

In all, 109 countries voted in favour (-3), 41 countries opposed the resolution (-5) and 35 (+1) abstained.

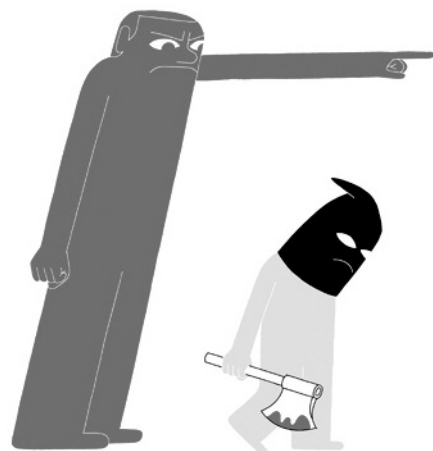
7 countries were absent. Support for the resolution was therefore strengthened in parallel with a decline in its opposition.

The same observation was made at a regional level. In Asia, a largely retentionist continent, a gap has opened up. Mongolia and Thailand, which voted against the previous resolutions and signed the notes of dissociation, this year voted in favour and abstained respectively.

Bhutan and the Maldives, which had abstained in the past, this time voted in favour of the third resolution.

In Arab nations the positive progress from 2008 was maintained: Algeria again officially supported and co-sponsored the resolution and, for the second time, seven Arab countries abstained.

Examination of a new resolution on a moratorium will be on the agenda at the 67th session of the UN General Assembly in 2012.



“Adieu!”, Poster 4 Tomorrow, Jochen Schievink, Germany.

Continuing Activism

Recognition of the World Day Against the Death Penalty is essential for the abolitionist movement to make progress. In eight years 10 October has become an event which unifies the abolitionist movement and the impact of the events connected to it has been exponential.

In 2007 the World Day demonstrated that the resolution for a moratorium on application of the death penalty was supported by civil society and contributed to the success mentioned above. It also constituted the starting point of the World Coalition's campaign for a universal moratorium.

The 2008 World Day focused on Asia and most of the demands of the abolitionist community have been heard: Vietnam and China have reduced the number of crimes punishable by death. In Taiwan, Liu Bing-lang, Su Chien-ho and Chuang Lin-hsun, known as the Trio Hsichih, had their case reviewed by the Supreme Court on the ground that their confessions had been extracted through torture. Japan is progressively lifting the State secret on executions and Pakistan has not executed prisoners for two years.

The 2009 World Day saw the creation of the Teaching Guide which was widely circulated and continues to be used by members of the Coalition in their awareness-raising activities.

The World Coalition has received a lot of feedback about the guide and it is being improved for a new version to be published in October 2011.

Finally, the 2010 World Day on the United States contributed to abolition of the death penalty in the State of Illinois. It has also made the date better known among American players and has contributed to strengthening the abolitionist movement in the United States.

World Day 2011

In agreement with all its members, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty has decided to devote the 2011 World Day to the death penalty and torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

10 October 2012 will be the 10th World Day and the World Coalition intends to use this symbolic date to increase activism and raise awareness among the general public.

[6] Annexes



"We can live without the death penalty". Meeting in Baghdad, Iraq, World Day 2010.

- [1] List of Initiatives (440 in 56 countries)
- [2] Press Releases
- [3] Press Review
- [4] Members of the World Coalition

[1] List of Initiatives: 440 in 56 Countries

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

ASIA PACIFIC

(15 COUNTRIES, 30 ACTIONS)

[AUSTRALIA

The Anti-Death Penalty Group

- Action Stall at the State Library, Melbourne, to campaign for an end to the death penalty. The stall paid particular attention to the executions in the USA

Australian Lawyers for Human Rights

- Dinner held by ALHR in Brisbane
- Talk was given by David Marr, respected journalist and author, in Brisbane

Poster for Tomorrow

- Exhibition of 100 posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display in Haymarket, New South Wales

Criminal Justice Coalition and Amnesty International

- Rally in the City Square, outside the State Library, Melbourne

[BANGLADESH

Odhikar and FIDH

- Publication of a joint report on the use of the death penalty in Bangladesh, entitled Criminal justice through the prism of capital punishment and the fight against terrorism, which was presented in Dhaka to the Bangladeshi authorities, civil society and the media during an FIDH visit from 8 to 12 October

[CHINA

Poster for Tomorrow

- Exhibition of 100 posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display in Wuhan, China

[HONG KONG

Joint Committee for the Abolition of the Death Penalty

- Signature collection for petitions calling on the abolition of the death penalty in China and Taiwan

[INDIA

People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL), Andhra Pradesh unit

- Programme with Jana Chaitanya Vedika at Hyderabad Press Club. Former Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court, Justice Ambati Lakshamana Rao, gave the keynote speech
- Press Release "Call to abolish death penalty as it violates Right to Life" (See *Annexe 2*)

[INDONESIA

Poster for Tomorrow

- Exhibition of 100 posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display in Jakarta for 7 days

KontraS (Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence)

- Press conference on the international development on the issue of the death
- Peace demonstration in Jakarta
- Meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs to discuss the issue of Indonesians on death row in foreign countries

[JAPAN

Forum 90

- Conference for the World Day Against the Death Penalty

National Network to Establish a Moratorium on Execution (Center for Prisoners' rights, AI Japan...)

- Workshop on the current punitive approach to offenses called "penal populism", especially regarding the death penalty

Japan Federation of Bar Association (JFBA)

- Event on the death penalty (JFBA does not officially support abolition)

[MALAYSIA

Amnesty International Malaysia

- Theatre Performance "Banduan Akhir" a story surrounding the issues of the Death Penalty, inspired by the story of Yong Vui Kong, a Malaysian boy facing the death penalty in Singapore

[PAKISTAN

Human Rights Commission of Pakistan

- Public awareness meetings across Pakistan
- Letter sent on the occasion of the World Day welcoming the moratorium on executions in place in the country since November 2008, to the President, Asif Ali Zardari

[SINGAPORE

Singapore Anti-Death Penalty Campaign (SADPC)

- Statement calling for a moratorium on the death penalty in Singapore published on their blog

- Statement calling for a moratorium on the death penalty in Singapore published on *The Online Citizen*

[SOUTH KOREA

Amnesty International

- Lobbying event at the National Assembly

[SRI LANKA

Action for Peace and Human Rights (APHR)

- Meeting to commemorate the World Day against the Death Penalty
- Launch of a blog: <http://prisonnotes-aphr.blogspot.com/> to share information with supporters of the anti-death penalty campaign

[TAIWAN

Poster for Tomorrow

- Exhibition of 100 posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display at the National University in Taipei, Taiwan, for 3 days
- Exhibition of 100 posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display at SooChow University, Taipei

Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty

- 3rd Film Festival on the Death Penalty called "Murder by Numbers Film Festival: A Dialog Between Asia and the World" in Taipei with about 2,000 participants
- Press Conference on the theme of the World Day to explain the actual situation of the death penalty in the USA

[TAJIKISTAN

Center for Strategic Studies

- Round Table dedicated to the European and World Day against the death penalty took place in Dushanbe

[THAILAND

Amnesty International

- Street Protest: silent action in the city centre to raise awareness about the death penalty
- Internal discussions on death penalty issues

NORTH AMERICA, SOUTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

(10 COUNTRIES, 67 ACTIONS)

[ARGENTINA

Poster for Tomorrow

- Exhibition of 100 posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display at Chaco

[BOLIVIA

Poster for Tomorrow

- Exhibition of 100 posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display at La Paz

[CANADA

Amnesty International Canada (Quebec)

- Letter-writing and solidarity actions

[COLUMBIA

Poster for Tomorrow

- Exhibition of 100 posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display at Medellin

[ECUADOR

Poster for Tomorrow

- Exhibition of 100 posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display at Quito

[PARAGUAY

Amnesty International

- Solidarity action on behalf of Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani

[PERU

Poster for Tomorrow

- Exhibition of posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display at Lima

[TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

British Foreign and Commonwealth Office

- Conference on the death penalty in the country

[UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Death Penalty Information Center, Death Penalty Focus, and Equal Justice USA

- Debate themed "Fighting Crime in the

U.S. and Internationally: *Is the Death Penalty Necessary?*" was held at the National Press Club in Washington, DC

- Meeting with the Delegation of the European Union in Washington, DC

Journey of Hope

- Speakers at the Huntsville stop during the journey
- Speakers in the Dallas stop over for 3 days during the Journey of Hope
- Speakers at the Austin 5 day stop over during the Journey of Hope
- Speakers at the San Antonio stop over during the Journey of Hope
- Speakers at the Houston stop over during the Journey of Hope

International Concerned Family & Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal

- Rally in Philadelphia
- March in Philadelphia
- Indoor rally in Philadelphia
- Gathering in New York
- Talk on Death Penalty in New York

Poster for Tomorrow

- Exhibition of 100 posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display in New York

Alaskans Against the Death Penalty

- Film "*Juan Meléndez - 6446*" was screened in Arkansas

Mission Free Iran

- Gathering held in Washington

Shape Community Center

- Dinner held in Houston
- Film Screening "*In prison my whole life*" was held in Houston

- Discussion on the “How YOU can Help Abolish the Death Penalty in the USA” was held in Houston

Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Fulton and Katherine Streets

- Discussion on the Death Penalty was held in Redwood, California

- Film screening of “The Empty Chair: Death Penalty Yes or No” was held in Redwood, California

Santa Clara Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty

- Rally held in California with the speakers Karen Holman, Dawn Spears and Gerald McGuire

Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

- Discussion of the the World Day Against the Death Penalty and upcoming abolition events by the Houston Chapter

Freedom March

- Freedom March for awareness of wrongful convictions in Phoenix
- Freedom March for awareness of wrongful convictions in Los Angeles
- Freedom March for awareness of wrongful convictions in Boise
- Freedom March for awareness of wrongful convictions in Lansing
- Freedom March for awareness of wrongful convictions in Poughkeepsie
- Freedom March for awareness of wrongful convictions in Pittsburgh

Iranian American Community of Northern California

- Rally to protest the political executions in Iran

The Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex

- Live Debate in New York Live which explored the death penalty and its relevance in the US today. The Event was streamed to 29 universities across the US, Canada and the UK

- Discussion on the Death Penalty inspired by the book “No Way to kill” was held in New York

- Virtual Gallery was created on the 10/10/2010

March for Abolition

- March against the Death Penalty was held in Texas

Amnesty International

- Online mobilization for the case of Troy Davis and Reggie Clemons
- Action launched to call for abolition of the death penalty in Illinois

Kids Against the Death Penalty

- Rally in front of the Walls Unit, the most active death House in the USA, in Huntsville, Texas
- Walk around the Huntsville town square to hand out information flyers about the death penalty

[VENEZUELA

Poster for Tomorrow

- Exhibition of 100 Posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display in Caracas

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

(4 COUNTRIES, 14 ACTIONS)

[IRAN

Poster for Tomorrow

- Exhibition of 100 Posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display in Teheran
- Exhibition of 100 Posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display in Mashad
- Exhibition of 100 Posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display in Kermanshah
- Exhibition of 100 Posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display in Shiraz
- “*Blogging game*” launched on the occasion of World Day Against The Death Penalty on October 10 for Iranian bloggers to protest against the death penalty and executions in the Islamic republic of Iran

[LEBANON

Poster for Tomorrow

- Exhibition of 100 Posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display in Beyrouth

French Embassy

- Conference Debat on the Death Penalty and it was held in Beyrouth, with guest speakers Antoinette Chahine, Youssef Khansa and the French Ambassador in Lebanon

[MOROCCO

Poster for Tomorrow

- Exhibition of 100 posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display in Marrakech

Moroccan Coalition Against the Death Penalty

- Sit in behind the parliament in Rabat

Club des Avocats

- Conference in Rabat on the theme: “*Against the death penalty and the world dynamic in favour of the abolition*”

[TUNISIA

Amnesty International

- Rally took place in Gafsa
- Signature Collection for a petition to abolish the death penalty in the United States were collected in Sousse
- Signature Collection for a petition to abolish the death penalty in the United States were collected in Gafsa

SUB SAHARAN AFRICA

(12 COUNTRIES, 49 INITIATIVES)

[BURKINA FASO

Amnesty International

- Film Screening of “*Les Dernier mots de Frances Newton*” at Ouagadougou
- Conference: “*Question and Answer time on the death penalty*” at Ouagadougou
- Conference Debate was held in Ouagadougou

- Focus Groups on issues of the death penalty was held at the World Café
- Audience with the Ambassador of Denmark was held in Burkino Faso
- Audience with the Minister for the Promotion of Human Rights in Burkino Faso

National Coalition Against the Death Penalty

- Press Conference where a common declaration by the 6 members of the National Coalition Against the Death Penalty Burkina was made

[BENIN

Amnesty International

- Debate on *“The Death Penalty and the state protecting human rights”* was held in Benin

ACAT Parakou (Benin)

- Posters put on walls in High Schools in Parakou and debate with students
- Posters put on walls in the Appeal Court
- Posters put on walls in the prison of Parakou
- Radio broadcast on Urban FM, Fraternité FM and Radio Razeke on *“10 reasons to abolish the death penalty”*

[BURUNDI

ACAT Burundi

- Statement broadcast on 5 radio stations and 2 TVs

[IVORY COAST

Amnesty International

- Postcard action targeting the Ghanaian authorities

[CAMEROON

Poster for Tomorrow

- Exhibition of 100 posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display in Yaounde

ACAT

- Prison Visit by the members of Cameroun ACAT in Edea
- Interviews were held with death row prisoners in the Central Prison of Douala
- Press Release was released by ACAT to mark the World Day
- Roundtable discussion on the abolition of the death penalty in Cameroun
- High profile dinner reception hosted by the French Ambassador

Droits et Paix

- Conference Debate on the theme *“From a de facto moratorium to the right to the death penalty”* in Cameroun was held in Douala
- Speeches were given at Douala.

[DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Pax Christi Uvira

- Conference Debate in Uvira on the theme *“Jesus was a victim of the death penalty”*
- Cultural Ballet was held in Mulongwe, Uvira
- Exhibition of Posters on the Death Penalty in Uvira
- Community Awareness of the Death Penalty in the United States was held in Uvira
- Debate on *“The application of the death penalty in the United States : Country of democratic rights, leading world power*

and a country of justice, human rights and peace”

- Discussion on: *“The Death Penalty in the RDC, should it be abolished?”*

- Press release read on local and national Radios

La CPJ, les coalitions et congolaises Africaine Contre la Peine de mort

- Press Conference was held in Kinshasha.
- Collection of Signatures for a petition to support the end of the Death Penalty in the Congolais law.
- Conference Debate was held in Kinshasha
- Film Screening of *“La Marche de l’abolition”*

French Embassy in the Democratic Republic of Congo

- Documentary Screening in Kinshasha
- A Discussion on the Death Penalty was held in Kinshasha

Union Chrétienne pour le progrès et la Défense des Droits de l’homme

- Conference Debate was held in Uvira

[MADAGASCAR

ACAT

- Conference Debate held by ACAT with participants from SOS Villages d’Enfants Madagascar
- Art Work created by the children from SOS villages d’enfants de Madagascar

[MAURITANIA

Mauritanian Coalition against the Death Penalty

- Conference discussing the coalitions activities and future activities

- Visit to the prison of Nouakchott to meet with people on death row

- Discussion on ways and means to contribute to the abolition of the death penalty

[MAURITIUS

Amnesty International

- Lobbying with government representatives and MPs

[NIGER

SYNAFEN (Syndicat National des Agents de la Formation et de l’Education au Niger)

- Debate held in the conference room of the Niger Women’s Association at Jangorzo, Niamey
- Press releases and invitation letters sent to civil society and officials

[NIGERIA

The Human Rights Law Service

- Public advocacy workshop was held in Lagos
- A Media Briefing was held in Lagos state

Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Lagos

- Roundtable on Revisiting Death Penalty in Nigeria
- Communiqué published at the end of the roundtable

[TANZANIA

Legal and Human Rights Center, SHARINGON, ZLSC and TLS

- Training on the death penalty for 30 journalists

EUROPE

(15 COUNTRIES, 230 ACTIONS)

[AUSTRIA

Amnesty International Austria

- VR/urban's innovative smlingshot to create an engaging death penalty action whereby participants digitally fired messages on the death penalty against an illumined wall in Vienna's museum quarter
- Speaking tour for former death row inmate Juan Melendez

[BELGIUM

European Parliament

- Meeting
- Resolution voted on the 7th

European Commission and Council of Europe

- Joint Declaration stressing that the death penalty violates human rights dignity

Amnesty International Belgium

- Buffet was held at Saint Gilles
- Talk given by Joaquín José Martínez a witness to the horror death row

Amnesty International, Community of Saint Edigio and Within Without Walls

- Film Histoire de Dominique at Peace Center, Antwerp
- Information Stalls by Amnesty International and other death penalty related NGO's at the Peace Center, Antwerp
- Exhibition by Amnesty International at the Peace Center, Antwerp

- Witness Testimonies from Dominique Green at the Peace Center, Antwerp

[BELARUS

Poster for Tomorrow

- Exhibition of 100 created by graphic designed artists were put on display in Misnk

[FRANCE

Amnesty International

- Launch of a significant communication campaign around the World Day featuring posters, a viral video, TV and print advertisements
- Video on death penalty shown in 150 cinemas
- Interviews of the President of AI France, Geneviève Garrigos on two TV shows and on radio and print media
- Exhibition of posters and texts on the death penalty was held in Narbonne
- Information Stand was held at Hotel de Ville, Narbonne
- Press Conference was held in Narbonne
- Collection of Signatures for a petition against the death penalty in Marcilly
- Theatre Performance of *Sacco et Vanzetti* was performed in Marcilly
- Book fair was held at Martigues
- Collection of Signatures against the death penalty were collected at Martigues
- Rally was held in Lyon

Ensemble Contre la Peine de Mort

- Pedagogical Exhibition on the theme "*On the path to universal abolition*" in Nanterre University
- Flash Mob for the World day was held in Paris
- Film screening of "*Les derniers mots de Frances Newton*" was held in Paris
- Discussion on the Death Penalty with speakers Gloria Killian, Sandrine Ageorges Skinner, Robert Bryan
- Round Table discussion was held in Paris with speakers Anne Deyson, Sandrine Ageorges Skinner, Gloria Killian, Eric Bernard, Claude Guillaumaud-Pujol and Arnaud Gaillard
- Conference with speakers Sandrine Ageorges Skinner, Antoinette Chahine, Gloria Killian, M. François Zimeray, M^e Jean-Yves Leborgne, Raphaël Chenuil-Hazan, Mohammad Mostafaei, Richard Sédillot, Nicolas Bourcier
- Work Shops aimed at school children to teach abolition. There was opportunities for they youth to meet people affected by and involved with the death penalty, Sandrine Ageorges Skineer, Gloria Killian and Claude Guillaumaud-Pujol
- Exhibition of pieces of work from the artist Caroline Planque was held in Paris

Comité Vie sauve pour Mumia, le MRAP 35, le MVP

- Flash Mob for the world day was held at University de Villejean, Rennes
- A Die In was held at the Place du Parlement with percussionists in Rennes

Collectif Unitaire National de Soutien à Mumia Abu-Jamal

- Rally to support Mumia Abu Jamal in Paris

La Ligue des Droits de l'Homme et Mains unies pour la justice et Amnesty International

- Film "*Du Silence et des ombres*" was screened in Lyon

Poster for Tomorrow

- Exhibition of 100 Posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display in Chaumont
- Exhibition of 100 Posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display in Paris
- Exhibition of 100 Posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display in Renouard

ACAT

- Rally was held in Cannes
- Information Stand was held in Cannes
- Work Shops directed at children and adults was held in Cannes

Sorbonne University

- Projection of "*Toute ma vie en prison*" was held in Sorbonne University
- Debate on the death penalty with Claude Guillaumond-Pujol

[GEORGIA

Poster for Tomorrow

- Exhibition of 100 Posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display in Tbilissi

[GERMANY

Poster for Tomorrow

- Exhibition of 100 Posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display in Heidelberg

The International Committee Against Execution

- Protest against the death penalty held in Berlin

[ITALY

Faenza International Museum of Ceramics

- Exhibition of two life size ceramic electric chairs by Luigi Ontani and Bertozzi & Casoni at the International Museum of Ceramic of Faenza
- Lectures about the Death Penalty held at Faenza

Poster for Tomorrow

- Exhibition of 100 Posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display in Firenze
- Exhibition of 100 Posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display in Marsala

The International Committee Against Execution

- Protest against the death penalty held in Rome (Via Macherate)
- Protest against the death penalty held in Rome (Via dei Fienaroli)

Amnesty International

- Photographic exhibition on the death penalty named “*The Dark Room*” in Italy
- Wide range of activities across the country (letter-writing, vigils, solidarity actions...)

Hands Off Cain

- Conference held in Rome on October 10 on the World Day Against the Death Penalty, Hands Off Cain presented the dossier “*Sakineh and the others*” on stoning around the world

[NETHERLANDS

Poster for Tomorrow

- Exhibition of 100 Posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display in Breda

Amnesty International

- Letter-writing and solidarity actions

[NORTHERN IRELAND

Poster for Tomorrow

- Exhibition of 100 Posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display in Derry City
- Exhibition of 100 Posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display in Belfast

[NORWAY

Amnesty International

- Letter-writing and solidarity actions

[POLAND

OSCE, Office for Democracy and Human Rights

- Statement read by the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

Poster for Tomorrow

- Exhibition of 100 Posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display in Gdansk
- Exhibition of 100 Posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display in Centre for Contemporary Art in Gdansk

Amnesty International

- Letter-writing and solidarity actions

[SPAIN

Poster for Tomorrow

- Exhibition of 100 Posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display in Ciudad Real
- Exhibition of 100 Posters created by graphic designed artists were put on display in Langreo – Asturias

Amnesty International

- Rally at the Park Retiro in Madrid

International Commission against the Death Penalty

- Launch of the Commission
- Press Release

Network of Academics against the Death Penalty

- Conference on the Death Penalty

[SWITZERLAND

Amnesty International

- Letter-writing and solidarity actions

[UNITED KINGDOM

International Bar Association’s Human Rights Institute

- Roundtable discussion on the death penalty in the USA on the legal challenges and paths to abolition of the death penalty, held in London

Cambridge University’s Lawyers Without Borders

- Conference on the death penalty held at Cambridge
- Collection of Signatures for petitions against the death penalty
- Film dealing with the issues of the Death Penalty was screened

Voices for Death Row Victims

- Demonstration in front of the US embassy in London

Amnesty International UK

- Film Screening of the film “*The Stoning of Soraya M*” in London, England.
- Question and Answer time on the Death Penalty in London, England

Amnesty International, International Secretariat

- Web feature distributed to media contacts together with accompanying documents highlighting the trend towards abolition of the death penalty within the USA

Reprieve

- Talk given at the Foreign Office of the Death Penalty Launch in London, England

[2]

Press Releases

[WORLD DAY AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 7 October 2010

On 10.10.10, the 8th World Day against the Death Penalty will focus on ending the use of the death penalty in the United States of America. Since 2003, abolitionists have taken actions all over the world every 10 October to raise awareness and opposition to the death penalty. This year, to mark the World Day against the Death Penalty, dozens of events have been organized across the USA from Texas to Alaska, including in New York and Washington DC. All over the world, abolitionists are hosting events in support of the American movement to end the death penalty. To see the complete program of scheduled events, visit: www.worldcoalition.org/worldday

By encouraging debates and education on the death penalty on 10.10.10, worldwide abolitionists would like every citizen to understand that the fundamental right to life applies to all people, that the death penalty is irrevocable and can be inflicted on the innocent even in the most competent systems of justice. In the USA, as elsewhere, the death penalty does not deliver justice. Since 1977 more than 130 people have been released on grounds of innocence revealing significant flaws in legal process. It is also a system that continues to condemn people on discriminatory grounds and that diverts time and money from other more efficient law enforcement measures. P A 2009 report by the Death Penalty Information Center showed that the nation's police chiefs rank the death penalty last in their priorities for effective crime reduction and they do not believe the death penalty acts as a deterrent to murder.

In 2010 the US has executed 40 people to date; Texas (16) having executed the most people so far. In 2009 11 states executed 52 prisoners: Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Indiana, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Virginia, Ohio, and Tennessee and South Carolina. Even as executions continue though,

movement has been made to reduce the number of those sentenced to death. Today in the USA, 15 states do not have the death penalty and 11 more made legislative proposals to abolish capital punishment in 2009. In 2002 the Supreme Court prohibited the execution of the insane, and in 2005 it prohibited the death penalty for offenders who were under 18 years old at the time of the crime. 2009 also saw a decrease in the number of death sentences, and the number of executions is trending down.

This World Day is the opportunity for abolitionists to work together, in the United States and abroad, to help continue this trend of restricting the use of the death penalty and to work to educate the public to bring about the end of its use. By 2009, 139 countries in the world had abolished the death penalty in law or in practice, and 18 of the 58 retentionist states actually executed people. To support the American movement to end the death penalty is also to support abolition all over the world, to take another step towards universal abolition.

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

Created in Rome in 2002, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty brings together 114 bar associations, trade unions, local governments and non-governmental organizations. It aims at strengthening the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty and at contributing to put an end to death sentences and executions. In 2003, The WCADP has established the World Day against the Death Penalty on 10 October. It is also officially the European Day against Death Penalty since 2007.

[AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASE]

8 October 2010

USA increasingly isolated as the world turns against death penalty

Ahead of World Day against the Death Penalty on 10 October, Amnesty International today urged the USA, the only country that carried out executions in the Americas in 2009, to end its use of this cruel and inhumane punishment.

“A clear majority of countries have rejected the death penalty. How can the USA claim leadership on human rights yet still commit judicial killings?” said Widney Brown, Senior Director of International Law and Policy at Amnesty International.

“The death penalty is cruel, degrading, ineffective and entirely incompatible with any concept of human dignity. Its use in the USA is marked by arbitrariness, discrimination and error.”

More than 1,200 men and women have been put to death in the USA since executions resumed in 1977 after a decade without them. Three jurisdictions – Texas, Virginia, and Oklahoma – account for more than half of the country’s executions, geographic bias on a grand scale.

More than 130 prisoners have been released from death rows around the USA since 1976 after being found innocent – nine were freed in 2009 alone. Others have been put to death despite serious doubts over their guilt.

Studies have shown that race plays a part in who receives the death penalty in the USA, with murders involving white victims more likely to result in death sentences than those involving black victims.

“Race, geography, electoral politics, local finances, jury composition, and the quality of legal representation are all problematic factors in capital cases in the USA. Being tried for a capital crime is like taking part in a lethal lottery, and it should have no place in any justice system,” said Widney Brown.

There is no proof that the death penalty deters violent crime more effectively than imprisonment.

“It is indefensible to continue executing people, particularly knowing that innocent people have been sentenced to death. The USA needs to join the abolitionist majority in the world,” said Widney Brown.

Although more than 1,000 executions have been carried out in the USA since 1993 alone, there are signs that public and political support for this punishment is waning.

New Mexico and New Jersey have abolished the death penalty in the past two years, and the annual number of death sentences has dropped by two thirds from its peak in the 1990s. In the past decade, the US Supreme Court has abolished the death penalty for offenders who were under 18 at the time of the crime or who have “mental retardation”.

“The abolition of the death penalty in the USA will be a very important moment in the movement towards eradication of this punishment globally – and it cannot come soon enough.”

Further information on the death penalty can be found at:

www.amnesty.org/en/death-penalty

[STATEMENT ON THE CONSTITUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY]

Madrid, 7 October 2010

As an initiative of the Spanish Government, an International Commission against the Death Penalty was established today in Madrid as part of the celebrations of World Day Against the Death Penalty.

The death penalty is the ultimate denial of human rights. It violates the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment, proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The International Commission is chaired by Federico Mayor Zaragoza and initially composed of the personalities listed in the annex to this Declaration.

The International Commission has the support and advice from the following countries: Argentina, Dominican Republic, France, Italy, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Mongolia, Philippines, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland and Turkey.

The International Commission is created at the time where there is a strong and continuing trend towards abolition of the death penalty in all regions of the world, as highlighted in the latest report of UN Secretary-General of 15 August 2010 on "moratoriums on the use of the death penalty".

In fact today more than two thirds of the member countries of the UN have abolished the death penalty in law or in practice. But unfortunately there are still many countries which maintain the death penalty in their legislation, and therefore it is necessary to intensify all efforts until its universal abolition.

The International Commission is created to join all the efforts in favour of abolishing the death penalty being carried out by civil society, United Nations and other International and Regional Organizations as well as political leaders of the world. The International Commission will work with all of them in close cooperation with the ultimate goal of achieving the total abolition of this punishment.

The International Commission reminds that the Statute of the International Criminal Court and the International Criminal Tribunals have excluded the death penalty from the punishments which can be imposed for the extremely grave crimes such as genocide and other crimes against humanity.

The International Commission shall have the following objectives:

- Obtain the universal abolition of the death penalty: In this perspective, promote the abolition of the death penalty in legislation in those countries carefully considered, in particular in the legislation of the countries that apply a de facto moratorium on the use of the death penalty.
- Promote the establishment of a moratorium on the use and the imposition of the death penalty in all regions of the world, allowing the most widespread and effective implementation of a universal moratorium on the horizon of 2015, with a view to its total abolition.
- Solicit the stop of executions in the cases where International Law prohibits or restricts explicitly its application.

To achieve these objectives, the Commission will carry out the following activities on a strategic and selective manner:

- Collaborate and intervene before high representatives and personalities of specific countries, along with representatives of international organizations and NGOs.
- Make appeals and statement on matters of concern relating to the abolition of the death penalty.
- Participate in conferences and seminars, as well as campaigns to mobilize public opinion.
- Dissemination of information and presentation of papers at international forums.
- Promote intellectual and artistic works which favour the abolition of the death penalty.

At the time of its establishment, the International Commission declares its firm determination to contribute with its work to promote, complement or support any action which aims to abolish the death penalty in the world.

[CALL TO ABOLISH DEATH PENALTY AS IT VIOLATES RIGHT TO LIFE]

Jana Chaitanya Vedika People's Union for Civil Liberties, Andhra Pradesh unit

Several speakers called for united efforts to ensure a death penalty-free world and united efforts to abolish death penalty completely. Speaking at programme arranged in Hyderabad Press Club, Hyderabad, India, on Sunday, to mark the World Day Against Death Penalty, they said it is in violation of Right to Life and most inhumane and degrading punishment. The programme was jointly organized by Jana Chaitanya Vedika and People's Union for Civil Liberties, Andhra Pradesh unit, responding to the call given by World Coalition Against Death Penalty.

Speaking as Chief Guest, former Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court, Justice Ambati Lakshmana Rao said however grave crime that one may committed, awarding death sentence is injustice and against to humanity. Modern civilized society can not tolerate such injustice, he asserted.

Stating that death penalty violates basic human right of Right to Life, he said alternate punishment like keeping life long in jail may be considered so that there would be no hard to the society from persons who commit grave crimes. "We should not think in terms of killing a person for committing a crime, but should give an opportunity to reform him", he added.

Justice Lakshmana Rao said every person may commit one or other type of offences in their lives and they may be awarded punishment basing up on severity of their crimes. But at no circumstances, the State should not try to take away the most precious life.

He called for united efforts to abolish such legislations which give scopes for awarding death penalty. As we can not give life, he said we have also no right to take one's life.

Senior High Court lawyer Pattabhi Venulapati said he would oppose death penalty violently under any circumstances. He recalled that death penalty was not in the basic structure of Indian constitution, but it was the gift of colonial British regime, who formulated as part of Criminal Procedure Code only to suppress that 'subjects' (Indians). "It is insult to continue such colonial punishment till now" he said.

Narrating that how the judiciary is arbitrary in awarding punishments, he recalled how in the same came the Supreme Court had awarded different punishments to three accused for the same crime. Stating that India is symbol of peace and harmony, where there is no place for cruel punishment like death penalty. "We have to see alternate system of punishments", he said.

He said he opposes death penalty as it is not good for democracy where State perpetuate crime of violence against its own people.

Former Rajya Sabha Member and AP Govt. Commission for Implementation of 20-Point Programme Dr N Tulasi Reddy said that after the Supreme Court verdict in 1983, the death penalty is being awarded only in rarest of rare crimes in India.

Stating that some people are insisting for this provision with an view that may be deterrent to crime in the society, he agreed there is also large scare demand for its abolition as it represent violent attitude of the State and only innocents are likely to be victims.

**Jana Chaitanya Vedika president V Lakshmana Reddy presided.
PUCL state general secretary Smt Jaya Vindhyala,
state vice president Ch. Narendra
and Smt V Satyavathi of Jana Chaitanya Vedika also spoke.**

[PRESS RELEASE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT]

7 octobre 2010

10.10.10 – World Day against the Death Penalty

Marking the 8th World Day against the death penalty, MEPs adopted a resolution in which they condemn the capital punishment in all cases and under all circumstances and call for an unconditional worldwide moratorium on executions. "Death can never ever be considered an act of justice", said EP president Jerzy Buzek in the opening of the session, on 6 October 2010..

"43 countries worldwide retain the death penalty and the highest number of executions took place in 2009 in China, Iran and Iraq. China alone carried out about 5 000 or 88% of the world total of executions, Iran put at least 402 people to death, Iraq at least 77 and Saudi Arabia, at least 69", says the EP resolution. Other countries mentioned in the resolution which still apply the death penalty are: Egypt, Malaysia, Sudan, Thailand, North-Korea, Vietnam, Japan and the United States (35 states out of 50 still have the death penalty, although 4 of them have not held executions since 1976).

"A universal moratorium on executions with a view to total abolition in all states which still practise the death penalty" is the demand of the European Parliament.

Saving European nationals from executions

MEPs stress that the new European External Action Service (EEAS) should provide guidance for a comprehensive and effective European death penalty policy with regard to dozens of confirmed European nationals facing execution in third countries, which "shall include strong and reinforced mechanisms in terms of the identification system, the delivery of legal assistance, EU legal interventions and diplomatic representation" . .

Death penalty in Europe

Belarus remains the only European country still applying death penalty in practice. The European Parliament calls also on Kazakhstan and Latvia to amend their national legislation that still allow the death penalty for certain crimes under exceptional circumstances

Fight against death penalty - key priority of EU's human rights policy

The EU is a leading donor to the efforts by civil society organisations in the fight against death penalty, which is one of the thematic priorities for assistance under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). Since 1994 over 30 projects worldwide were funded by EIDHR, with an overall budget of over €15 million..

The resolution was adopted by an overwhelming majority, namely 574 in favour, 25 against and 39 abstentions.

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WORLD DAY AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

10.10.10

[THE IRAQI COALITION AGAINST DEATH PENALTY]

Focusing the efforts of international organizations to Iraq as one of the countries most in application of the death penalty

To day is the tenth month of October of this year's World Day Against the Death Penalty, Iraq, the top countries of the world in the application of the death penalty on its citizens to become the preparation of citizens who face the death penalty is concerned, all the activists in Iraq and all over the world and the reason is not to guide the efforts of organizations International to Iraq despite the many meetings, conferences and workshops, which are not sufficient alone to limit the death penalty in Iraq, despite all our appeals prior to them note that there is no minimum culture in Iraq on this subject, but that a high percentage of people do not know that there is a death penalty in the world so We in the Iraqi coalition against the death penalty and in cooperation with the Arab Coalition Against the Death Penalty and we plan for two years to reduce the death penalty in Iraq, which are summarized guidance of Iraqi public opinion of university professors, civil society organizations, lawyers and college students to pressure the Iraqi government to limit the death penalty until we reach to terminate it completely in 2015 as well as print thousands of posters, which opposes the death penalty and sent our plan to most international organizations on this subject in the world but did not respond to our request to any international organization. today and in this occasion was a symposium at the headquarters of the coalition in Baghdad, and repeated our request of international organizations to help us to implement our activities in Iraq in this topic as well as appeal to the Iraqi government taking into account the appeal of the international, Arab and local communities to reduce the death penalty in Iraq in the hope of ending the death penalty in 2015, knowing that our coalition is a member of the Arab coalition against the death penalty, which is based in Amman

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WORLD DAY AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

10.10.10

[DÉCLARATION COMMUNE EN FAVEUR DE L'ABOLITION DE LA PEINE DE MORT AU BURKINA FASO]

Dans le cadre de la campagne « Abolissons la peine de mort au Burkina Faso » lancée en 2010, **Nous, associations signataires** avons décidé d'appeler d'une même voix le parlement du Burkina Faso à adopter une loi pour l'abolition de la peine de mort au Burkina Faso.

L'article 2 de la constitution du 11 juin 1991 garantit le droit à la vie en même temps qu'il interdit les traitements inhumains et cruels, dégradants et humiliants, la torture physique ou morale, ainsi que toutes les formes d'avilissements de l'Homme. Cette disposition est en parfaite conformité avec les engagements internationaux de l'Etat burkinabè en matière de respect des droits humains à savoir l'article 3 de la Déclaration Universelle des Droits de l'Homme, l'article 4 de la Charte Africaine des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples et l'article 6 du Pacte International relatif aux Droits Civils et Politiques. Toutefois la peine de mort reste prévue par le code pénal burkinabè notamment en ses articles 9, 89, 324, 325, 326, 332, 337, 453, 520.

Quoique la dernière exécution remonte à la fin des années 1980, des condamnations à la peine de mort sont toujours prononcées par les juridictions burkinabè. Au total six personnes ont été condamnées à mort par les Cours d'Appel de Ouagadougou et de Bobo-Dioulasso lors des assises criminelles de 2009 et depuis le début de l'année 2010, une personne a déjà été condamnée à mort par la cour d'appel de Bobo-Dioulasso.

La peine de mort est une négation du droit à la vie et de la dignité humaine.

Qu'elle existe dans la pratique ou dans la législation, la peine de mort porte une atteinte grave au droit à la vie et elle est la négation la plus absolue des droits humains.

Elle ôte à l'individu toute possibilité de s'amender. Maintenir la peine de mort, c'est apporter des solutions simplistes à des problèmes humains plus complexes, au lieu d'inciter à chercher des explications susceptibles d'inspirer des stratégies constructives.

La peine de mort est la peine la plus cruelle, inhumaine et dégradante qui soit. Elle bafoue la dignité humaine. C'est pour cela que les instruments relatifs aux droits humains entendent préserver le droit à la vie et à la dignité ; et que les saints textes protègent le caractère sacré de toute vie humaine.

Des engagements non remplis

En décembre 2007 et 2008, le Burkina Faso a voté en faveur de la Résolution de l'Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies pour un moratoire universel sur la peine de mort. Il en a fait de même pour la résolution adoptée par la Commission Africaine des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples (CADHP). Le 19 mars 2009, le gouvernement du Burkina Faso a promis devant le Conseil des droits de l'Homme des Nations Unies d'obtenir l'abolition de la peine de mort de sa législation nationale au plus tard

lors de son prochain passage au titre de l'Examen Périodique Universel en 2013. En mai 2009, il s'engageait devant la Commission Africaine des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples à ratifier le deuxième Protocole facultatif au Pacte International relatif aux Droits Civils et Politiques. Cette promesse reste non tenue. A de multiples occasions, les autorités du Burkina Faso ont exprimé leur volonté d'abolir la peine de mort. Les dernières en date sont d'une part, la position du Chef de l'Etat, Monsieur Blaise COMPAORE, qui dit être opposé à la peine de mort lors d'une audience accordée à une délégation d'Amnesty International le 12 février 2010 et d'autre part, la déclaration de Monsieur le Ministre de la Justice, Garde des Sceaux au cours d'une réunion internationale tenue à Rome le 17 mai 2010 indiquant que le Burkina Faso va abolir très prochainement la peine de mort dans notre pays.

De ce qui précède, Nous, associations signataires, souhaitons attirer l'attention des autorités de l'Etat Burkinabè sur la nécessité d'être en adéquation avec ses engagements nationaux et internationaux en matière protection du droit à la vie.

Pour ce faire, nous prions le parlement burkinabè d'accompagner le gouvernement dans sa volonté d'abolir la peine de mort dans la législation du Burkina Faso et de prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires visant à améliorer les conditions de vie dans les établissements pénitentiaires de notre pays.

Fait, à Ouagadougou, le 12 octobre 2010

ASSOCIATIONS SIGNATAIRES :

Amnesty International Burkina Faso (AIBF)

Le Directeur Exécutif Yves Boukari TRAORE

Action des Chrétiens pour l'Abolition de la Torture / Burkina Faso (ACAT-BURKINA)

La Présidente Lucienne Ariane ZOMA

Commission « Justice et Paix »/ Burkina Faso (CJP-BURKINA)

Le Secrétaire National François de Sales BADO

Ligue pour la Défense de la Justice et de la Liberté (LIDEJEL)

Le Président Ousmane NACRO

Mouvement Burkinabè des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples (MBDHP)

Le Président Chrysogone ZOUGMORE

Rencontre Africaine pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme/Burkina Faso

Le Président par intérim Pascal ZOMBRE

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