

World Day Against the Death Penalty

Initiated by the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, citizens and organisations take action on 10 October every year to denounce the continued use of the death penalty anywhere in the world, and to recall that its abolition is a universal battle. Since the introduction of the World Day in 2003, hundreds of initiatives: debates, concerts, press conferences, demonstrations, petitions, and educational and cultural activities have been organised in more than 70 countries across five continents.

On 10 October, take action to stop the death penalty

On 10 October 2007, take action against the death penalty: join the hundreds of initiatives worldwide, sign the international petition calling for a universal moratorium on the death penalty and get your government to support the UN General Assembly resolution for a global moratorium on the death penalty.

Find all initiatives and actions of the World Day Against the Death Penalty on: www.worldcoalition.org

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

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

It brings together over 60 non-governmental organisations, professional associations and public bodies that are active across the world in support of abolition of the death penalty.

For more information,
please visit the website
www.worldcoalition.org



STOP THE DEATH PENALTY: THE WORLD DECIDES

10 October 2007
World Day Against
the Death Penalty

Take action
against the death penalty:

Join the hundreds
of initiatives worldwide

Sign the petition
calling for a universal
moratorium on executions

www.worldcoalition.org

WORLD DAY 2007 STOP THE DEATH PENALTY THE WORLD DECIDES

Two thirds of the world's countries have now either abolished the death penalty or have stopped imposing it, and the number of executions continues to fall every year. But in 2007, one-third of the world's countries still retain capital punishment.

Judicial state killings must stop.

Today, the world's nations are considering putting an end to the death penalty by calling for a global moratorium on executions.

Following this initiative, citizens and governments of the world must decide to say no to the death penalty.

The death penalty: the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment

- The right to life is inalienable: no authority can decide to kill a human being.
- Like torture, an execution constitutes an extreme physical and mental assault on an individual. The physical pain caused by the action of killing a human being cannot be quantified.
- Miscarriages of justice are unavoidable. However, the death penalty is irrevocable and can be inflicted on the innocent.
- It has never been shown to deter crimes more effectively than other punishments.
- It is an act of revenge which essentially legitimises violence by the state.
- The death penalty is discriminatory and is often used disproportionately against the poor, the mentally ill, minorities and members of racial, ethnic and religious communities.
- The death penalty sends a message that a human being can become worthless and beyond redemption and that it is acceptable to kill in certain circumstances. Governments should protect human life, not take it.

- The death penalty is overwhelmingly used after unfair trials and often inflicted upon individuals forced to 'confess' to their alleged crimes.
- International law favours universal abolition and encourages states to abolish the death penalty.

Campaign for a worldwide moratorium on executions: support a United Nations General Assembly Resolution

Towards a death penalty free world

Today, 130 countries have abolished the death penalty in law or practice. Only 25 countries actually carried out executions in 2006 while 91% of all known executions took place in only six countries: China, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Sudan and the USA. There is now a real momentum to end capital punishment. A death penalty-free world is increasingly becoming a possible reality.

For a vote by the UN highest political body

In October 2007, during its 62nd session, the United Nations General Assembly will be examining a resolution calling for a global moratorium on executions.

The UN General Assembly is the main deliberative organ of the UN composed of all its 192 member states. A resolution calling for an end to executions worldwide would therefore carry considerable moral weight and be a significant step towards worldwide abolition.

World support for a moratorium on executions

Five million people have already supported this initiative and signed a petition calling for a universal moratorium on the death penalty. On the occasion of the World Day Against the Death Penalty, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty is calling on all citizens to join this momentum and on all governments to vote in favour of this resolution.

To find out more and take action, visit www.worldcoalition.org.