

**World Day against
the Death Penalty**

10TH OCTOBER 2007
Fifth edition

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 seventy non-gouvernemental organisations, professional associations and public bodies that are active across the world in support of 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.

This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.

World Coalition against the Death Penalty

ECPM,

197/199 Avenue Pierre Brossolette

92120 Montrouge - France

Tel.: + 33 1 57 21 07 53

coalition@abolition.fr

www.worldcoalition.org

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Print in France,

CPI Hérissé, Évreux

**WORLD DAY
AGAINST THE DEATH
PENALTY**

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[PREAMBLE]

“The death penalty means the triumph of vengeance over justice and violates the first right of any human being, the right to life. Capital punishment has never prevented crime. It is an act of torture and the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. A society that imposes the death penalty symbolically encourages violence. Every single society that respects the dignity of its people has to strive to abolish capital punishment.

...

We, citizens of the world, call for an immediate halt to all executions of those sentenced to death and the global abolition of the death penalty”.

Declaration of the participants at the First
World Congress against the Death Penalty,
Strasbourg, France, 9th October 2001

Buoyed up by this profession of faith and convinced that only the mobilization and the cooperation of all those around the world committed to its abolition, would lead, in the end, to the eradication of capital punishment, the participants at the First World Congress against the Death Penalty founded, in May 2002, the World Coalition against the Death Penalty, and decided to establish, every 10th October, a World Day against the Death Penalty.

Five years on, the World Coalition can only rejoice at the scale that this initiative has taken on: every year, on 10th October, hundreds of actions are carried out in tens of countries across the five continents to denounce the use of the death penalty, to inform populations, to encourage debate and to demand that those governments still using capital punishment stop doing so.

This day, above all a day for citizens and activists alike, has now become an institution: on 26th September 2007, the Committee of ministers of the Council of Europe declared 10th October European Day against the Death Penalty, an initiative that was joined on 7th December by the European Union. “The European Day against the Death Penalty will be an occasion to engage in a debate with those nationals in our 47 member states who continue to support the death penalty, explaining why this inhuman and degrading form of punishment is wrong, why it has been abolished and why it should stay abolished.”, declared Mr Terry Davis, Secretary General of the Council of Europe on 27th September 2007.

For the 2007 edition of the World Day the hopes of abolitionists worldwide turned towards the United Nations. At the time when the General Assembly of the United Nations was considering a draft resolution calling for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty throughout the world, the World Day on 10th October was

the occasion to ask all governments to take action in favour of a world without execution by giving their overwhelming support to this resolution.

Their appeal was heard: on 18th December 2007 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted, with a very large majority, a resolution through which it “urges all states still using the death penalty to [...] institute a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty”.

This great step forward on the road to abolition is in keeping with an international trend favourable to the abolition of capital punishment. The number of abolitionist states, now significantly in the majority, (2 states out of 3 in the world), is in constant evolution.

Although not legally binding, the UN resolution is a historic event which carries a fundamental symbolic value: those countries who continue to execute prisoners under the sentence of death will henceforth be doing so against the express wish of the majority of states of the world.

A WORLD DAY TO SAY NO TO THE DEATH PENALTY



Mobilization of Nepalese activists in front of the Chinese Embassy in Kathmandu (Nepal)

[WHY HAVE A WORLD DAY AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY?

More and more countries across all continents are willing either to abolish the death penalty, or to look on its use critically. Experts, public opinion and political leaders recognise increasingly that the death penalty is a cruel punishment which does not act as a disincentive to offenders, and which turns murderers into martyrs and miscarriages of justice into irreversible tragedies.

However, 63 countries in the world continue to use the death penalty and every day men, women, and sometimes children, are executed in the name of justice. Even in those countries where the death penalty is no longer practised, its abolition is not a foregone conclusion: public opinion still remains partly in favour of capital punishment and various tragic events happen regularly to keep the public debate going and to stir up inclinations to reinstate the death penalty.

Therefore, the World Day against the Death Penalty is the occasion to:

- denounce the use of capital punishment where it is still practised;
- put pressure on the states who continue to use it to abolish the death penalty;
- give an international and institutional dimension to the fight of those who sometimes find themselves fighting against public opinion;
- explain to the public the urgent need for abolition and the indefensible nature of capital punishment;
- gather together those committed to abolition and the activists for this cause around a common campaign.

The very concept of the World Day, as well as its prime objective, is to give rise to and to encourage the organisation of local, highly decentralized initiatives in the greatest number of countries possible, and in particular in those states where the death penalty is still used.

Debates, press conferences, demonstrations, petitions, exhibitions, concerts, exchanges in places of learning or cultural centres ... every citizen should answer the call to action!

[THE PREVIOUS EDITIONS OF THE WORLD DAY: FIVE YEARS OF MOBILIZATION

The first edition of the World Day against the Death Penalty was celebrated on 10th October 2003.

On the occasion of the 2003 and 2004 editions the World Coalition called principally for the organisation of local initiatives everywhere throughout the world in order for the World Day to be an event with a clearly international character. In 2003, in 63 countries, 188 initiatives were organised to say "No to the death penalty!". For the edition on 10th October 2004, 215 initiatives took place in 24 countries.

Since 2005, the World Coalition chooses a specific theme each year so that it may suggest to its members and to all abolitionists targeted actions for awareness-raising and lobbying. The 2005 edition of the World Day, which had as its theme "Africa on the march towards abolition!", was celebrated in 46 countries with 263 initiatives organised throughout the world. An international petition asking the African heads of state to abolish the death penalty collected 42 200 signatures, and was handed over to the Presidency of the African Union.

The 2006 edition of this World Day, dedicated to miscarriages of justice, resulted in more than 450 local initiatives throughout the world. Petitions were also circulated in support of five prisoners under sentence of death symbolic of failures in the judicial system: the sentencing to death of innocent men, discriminatory enforcement of the law, failure to guarantee a fair trial, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and finally the sentencing to death of the mentally handicapped. These petitions collected more than 145 000 signatures.

In 2007, more than 411 initiatives were organised in 60 countries across five continents and over 160 000 petition signatures were collected.

[WHY FIGHT FOR THE UNIVERSAL ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY?]

- **The death penalty violates the most fundamental human rights**

The right to life is inalienable and no authority can decide to kill a human being. In the vast majority of cases, the death penalty is pronounced following an unfair trial. It is often applied on the basis of "confessions" extracted under torture.

The death penalty is discriminatory and most often strikes those who have no money, those with mental illnesses and people from racial, ethnic or religious minorities.

- **The death penalty is a cruel punishment**

Like torture, execution is an extreme physical and psychological aggression. The physical pain felt by a human being when he is executed cannot be quantified.

- **The risk of executing innocents is a recognised one**

The judicial system is capable of making a mistake and capital punishment is irreversible.

It has already been applied to innocent people; this could happen again.

- **The death penalty does not have a deterrent value**

The death penalty has no more effect on crime rates than any other punishment. Moreover, it is an act that, fundamentally, legitimizes state violence.

[**FACTS AND FIGURES: THE DEATH PENALTY AROUND THE WORLD**

- **In January 2008, 134 countries abolished capital punishment by law or in practice**

Since 1990 more than 50 countries have abolished capital punishment for all crimes. Among the recent examples are notably Rwanda (July 07) and Uzbekistan (January 08).

In total:

- 91 countries have abolished the death penalty for all crimes;
 - 11 countries have abolished the death penalty for all crimes except for exceptional crimes, such as those committed in time of war;
 - 32 countries may be considered to be abolitionist *de facto*: the death penalty is still statutory legislation, but they have not carried out an execution for at least ten years.
- **63 countries continue to apply the death penalty**, most often in murder cases but not exclusively: bribery, living on the earnings of prostitution, theft or even adultery, are, in certain countries, grounds for sentencing to death.
- We know that **at least 1 591 people were executed in 2006**, in 25 countries. However, the actual number of executions in the world during that year is certainly higher.
In 2006, **91% of the executions recorded took place in China, Iran, Pakistan, Iraq, Sudan and in the United States**. Amnesty International estimates that China executed at least 1010 people during the course of the year, but this figure is doubtless very far from the reality: certain recognised sources estimate the number of people executed at between 7 500 and 8000.
Iran executed at least 177 people (almost double the figure for 2005), Pakistan at least 82, Iraq and Sudan at least 65 each, but these figures may be lower than the actual numbers.
In the United States, 12 states carried out executions, taking away the life of 53 people (versus 60 in 2005), thereby bringing to 1057 the total number of people executed since the reinstatement of capital punishment in 1977.
- It is difficult to evaluate, on a global level, the **number of death row inmates awaiting their execution**. But based on various sources, this number is estimated to be between **19 185 and 24 646** in 2006.

Methods of execution

Since 2000, the following methods have been used:

- **decapitation** (Saudi Arabia);
- **electrocution** (United States);
- **hanging** (Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Pakistan, Singapore and other countries);

- **lethal injection** (China, United States, Guatemala, Thailand);
- **execution by firearm** (Belorussia, China, Uzbekistan, Somalia, Taiwan, Vietnam and other countries);
- **stoning** (Afghanistan, Iran)

Minors and the death penalty

International treaties relating to human rights forbid the application of capital punishment to anybody aged less than eighteen years at the time of the crimes which are attributed to them.

This prohibition is laid down in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. A small number of countries however, continue to execute juvenile offenders: in 2006, a case was recorded in Pakistan and in January 2008, seven other cases of executions of males who were minors at the time of the crimes were recorded in Iran.

International documents in favour of abolition

One of the major improvements carried out in recent years lies in the adoption of international treaties through which states commit to no longer using capital punishment. Currently these treaties number four:

- the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, ratified by 64 states and signed by eight others.
- the Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights, dealing with the abolition of the death penalty, ratified by eight states on the American continent and signed by two others;
- the Protocol n°6 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms concerning the abolition of the death penalty, ratified by 46 European states and signed by one other;
- the Protocol n°13 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms on the abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances, ratified by 40 European states and signed by 5 others.

The Protocols n° 6 and n°13 relate to the European Convention on Human Rights; the former aims to abolish the death penalty in peacetime, the latter covers the total abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances.

The first two protocols lay down the total and irreversible abolition of capital punishment; they are open for signature by those countries who have already confirmed abolition in their national legislation¹ and leave however, for those states that so desire, the possibility of having recourse to it exceptionally in times of war – if they make a reservation to this effect at the time of ratification and if provisions allowing its use already existed in their national legislation.

Source: Amnesty International

[THE 2007 EDITION OF THE WORLD DAY: FOR A GLOBAL MORATORIUM ON EXECUTIONS

"I believe that life is precious and must be protected and respected, and that all human beings have the right to live in dignity. International law affirms these values. I recognise the growing trend in international law and in national practice towards a phasing out of the death penalty"

Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General to the United Nations,
11th January 2007

In June 2007, the European Union announced its decision to defend a resolution calling for the establishment of a global moratorium on the death penalty at the 62nd session of the United Nations General Assembly, which was to meet the following autumn.

Therefore, the World Coalition decided to lend all its strength to this battle and to encourage, on the occasion of the World Day on 10th October, an international mobilization in favour of this resolution.

This is directly in line with the 3rd World Congress against the Death Penalty, the Final Declaration of which says:

"Recognising the great value that a successful resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly would have for the abolition of the death penalty worldwide, we invite the member states of the United Nations to take all necessary steps to ensure the adoption by the General Assembly of a resolution

- *calling for an immediate and universal moratorium on death sentences and executions and the commutation of existing death sentences, with a view to the universal abolition of the death penalty;*
- *recalling that the death penalty violates human rights and fundamental freedoms;*
- *and encouraging the UN, its member states, and other relevant international, regional and sub-regional organisations to support the implementation of this moratorium, including through mobilizing resources and expertise."*

The resolutions of the General Assembly are not legally binding. Nevertheless they have a very great symbolic significance: they represent the legitimate expression of the majority of member states of the United Nations and are endowed with a considerable moral force. A state would not wish to be condemned by the international community for having acted against a resolution of the General Assembly.

So, if a resolution about a global moratorium on executions cannot in itself prevent a state from organising an execution, it is an extremely useful tool to convince those countries hesitant about starting down the road to abolition. The adoption of such a resolution is also essential in the civil society for the abolition of the death penalty: once it is adopted a resolution becomes a legal instrument which

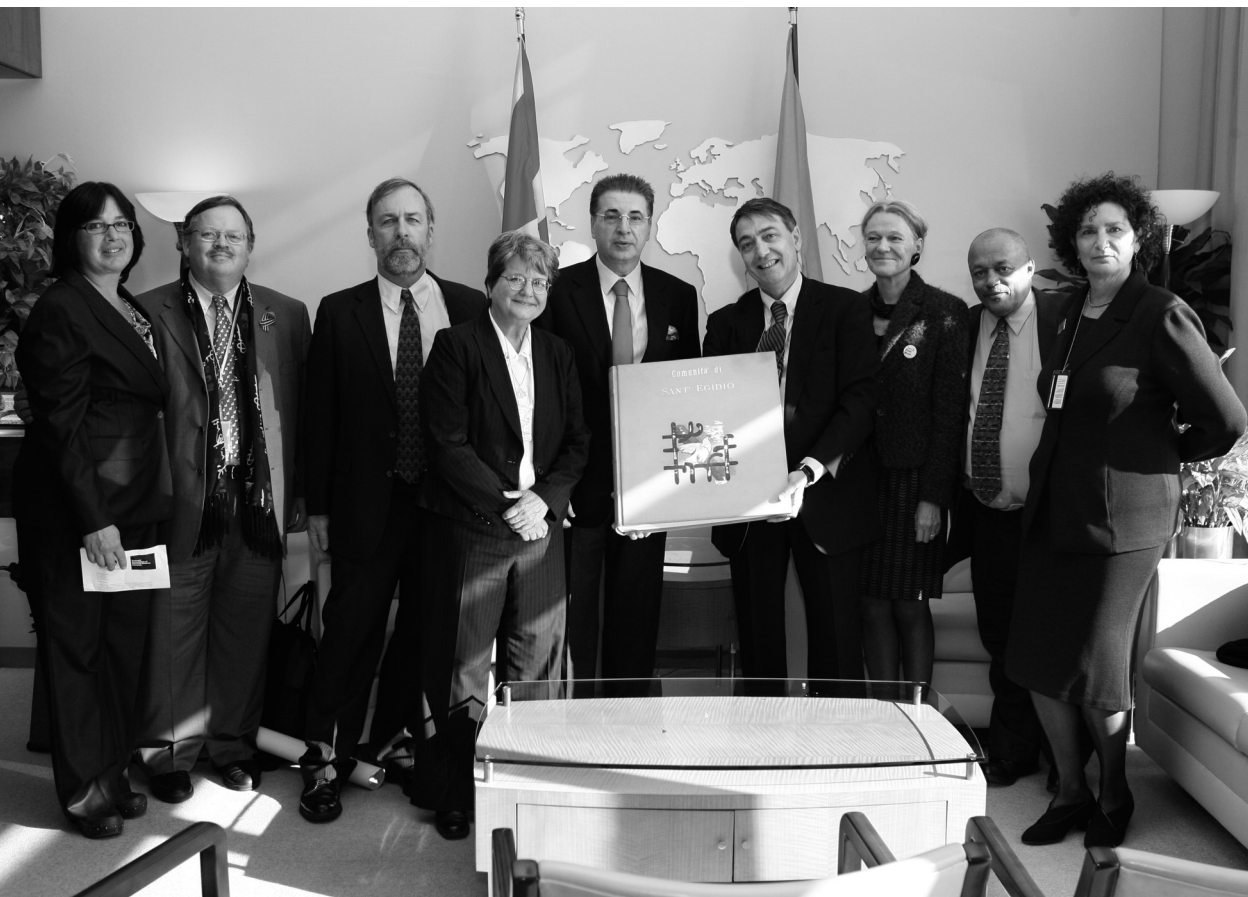
can serve as a point of reference and as a basis for making pleas to governments. The 62nd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations which was to consider the draft resolution in favour of a moratorium on the death penalty opened in September 2007. Taking the timetable of the 62nd session into account, the World Day on 10th October made possible the mobilization of states and citizens in favour of this resolution : press conferences across the five continents, international petitions, lobbying of governments, actions by civilians and activists... using many different types of initiatives, the World Day offered the occasion to explain, to mobilize and to rally the greatest number in the fight for universal abolition.

[2]

ACTIONS OF THE WORLD COALITION

"And he could not know of any goal more noble, more holy, more august than that one: working towards the abolition of the death penalty."

Victor Hugo, Extract from the preface of
Le Dernier jour d'un condamné (The Last Day of a Condemned Man)



Handover of the world petition to Srgjan Kerim,
President of the United Nations General Assembly, NYC (USA)

[17]

WORLD DAY AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY
10TH OCTOBER 2007

This year the World Coalition has become highly mobilized. Several actions have been carried out at once: the launching of a global petition, the organisation of press conferences in five symbolically significant countries, the targeting and making of specific pleas to governments and the organisation of regional workshops. Tools for mobilization and information have also been made available to all on the Internet site of the World Coalition.

[A GLOBAL PETITION FOR A GLOBAL MORATORIUM

For the 2007 World Day, the World Coalition against the Death Penalty launched a petition calling on people to join the appeal for a global moratorium on executions initiated in 1998 by the Sant' Egidio Community and Amnesty International (under the name of "Moratorium 2000") which had already collected more than five million signatures.

Appeal for a global moratorium on the death penalty

*"We, the undersigned, renew the call for a moratorium on executions and an end to capital punishment in the belief that the death penalty:
violates the universally affirmed right to life;
constitutes the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment;
constantly risks the irreversible error of the execution of an innocent person;
provides no added value to the deterrence of crime;
brutalizes those societies that employ state-sanctioned judicial killing.
We welcome the strong progress already made towards a global end to capital punishment and acknowledge that 130 nations have abolished the death penalty in law or in practice.
We invite all governments to work for a world free of executions as a contribution to the enhancement of human dignity and the progressive development of human rights. We call upon the member states of the UN General Assembly to overwhelmingly vote in favour of an international moratorium on executions."*

Translated into six languages and open for signature on the World Coalition website, the petition has not only been passed on by numerous organisations in, and members of, the Coalition, but also by an important number of individuals and bloggers.

In the end the World Coalition collected more than 167 000 signatures in only a few months. The signatures collected after the relaunch of the petition continue to be collected by the Sant' Egidio Community.

The signatures by country

| Country | Number of signatures |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Germany | 15 256 |
| Austria | 2016 |
| Belgium | 1171 |
| Benin | 111 |
| Brazil | 350 |
| Cameroon | 4 |
| Canada | 2181 |
| Ivory Coast | 50 |
| Denmark | 14 454 |
| Spain | 24 666 |
| France | 35 911 |
| Ghana | 86 |
| India | 43 160 |
| Italy | 1397 |
| Japan | 1 |
| Luxembourg | 160 |
| Madagascar | 96 |
| Monaco | 1 |
| Switzerland | 6509 |
| Taiwan | 137 |
| Togo | 114 |
| Ukraine | 18 |
| USA | 10 |
| World Coalition website | 19 826 |
| Total | 167 010 |

On 2nd November 2007 a delegation handed over to Srgjan Kerim, President of the UN General Assembly, a book containing the 5 245 907 signatures collected in 154 countries since 1998 in favour of a global moratorium on capital punishment. The delegation, led by Mario Marazziti, spokesperson for the Sant'Egidio Community, included notably Sister H  l  ne Prejean, experienced American abolitionist, whose fight was shown in the movie *Dead Man Walking*; Yvonne Terlingen, head of the Amnesty International office at the United Nations in New York; Renny Cushing, Marie Verzulli and Bill Babbitt, representatives of Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights, an international organisation of families of people who have been murdered or executed; Speedy Rice, Professor of law, representative of the National Association of Criminal Defence Lawyers (United States) and Elizabeth Zitrin, lawyer, member of the executive board of Death Penalty Focus (United States).

"For the first time a real moral interface was created, uniting people from different religions or without a religion", Mario Marazziti said. "It is a demonstration of the

strong will of the world and not just an idea of human rights that is rooted in the Italian or European tradition.”

The presence of members of the Murder Victims’ Families for Human Rights association meant that a link could be established between the campaign against the death penalty and individual cases where victims have found no comfort in a vengeful judicial system.

“I had never thought much about the death penalty until the day the District Attorney asked me about it. I told him that I couldn’t imagine what could bring me comfort or lessen my pain and despair, but I knew it wasn’t that. I knew that another killing would not help me in my grief”, said Marie Verzulli, whose sister was murdered ten years ago.

On the occasion of the handover of this petition the World Coalition organised a press conference which was held at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York.

[FIVE PRESS CONFERENCES TO MOBILIZE THE MEDIA FOR THE WORLD DAY

To announce the World Day, the World Coalition against the Death Penalty organised five press conferences worldwide, in collaboration with the members of the World Coalition in each country.

Rabat, Morocco, 2nd October 2007

In a region which is very widely retentionist, Morocco sets an example on the question of the death penalty: the civil society there is particularly mobilized with the consolidation since 2003 of the main associations in favour of abolition into a Moroccan Coalition against the Death Penalty; no execution has taken place there since 1993, and several times in the recent past, the political authorities have declared themselves in favour of abolition².

A press conference organised in collaboration with the Moroccan Coalition against the Death Penalty on 2nd October was the occasion to give the floor the Moroccan abolitionists, and to bring the debate to a regional level.

Notably:

Antoinette Chahine, a former death row prisoner from the Lebanon, recounted her story: accused of having participated in the murder of a priest in which the Christian militia “the Lebanese Forces” were implicated, she was sentenced to death in 1997, then saw her sentence commuted to life in prison (since the Lebanon does not execute women), before being pardoned in 1999. Since then, a member of Amnesty International, Antoinette Chahine militates actively against torture and the death penalty.

Ali Al-Dailami, Yemeni delegate of the all new Arab Coalition against the Death Penalty, recalled the difficulties that he had faced as an activist against the death penalty in his country where he was repeatedly harrassed and threatened. Ali Al-Dailami has also witnessed the hopes raised by the setting up of a dynamic regional force and by the efforts to bring together an alliance of players at a regional level.

The conference brought together more than 70 people: journalists, members of NGO’s, key figures, officials, diplomats ...

*Find all the documents on the World Coalition website:
<http://www.worldcoalition.org/modules/news/article.php?storyid=41>*

Zoom

The death penalty in the Arab world – Facts and figures

Except Djibouti, none of the 22 countries in the Arab League has abolished the death penalty. Although they have not carried out executions for more than 10 years, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria still sentence people to death. Other countries, like Saudi Arabia and Iran, hang or stone more than one hundred prisoners every year. Whether a remnant of colonial law, an instrument of coercion for powerful regimes or applied under Islamic law, the death penalty is firmly entrenched in the penal landscape of North Africa, as it is in the Middle East.

[**Morocco** – *Death penalty: suspended* – *Date of last execution: 1993*

Abolitionist de facto since 1993, in May 2003 Morocco adopted an anti-terrorist law following the attacks in Casablanca which killed 45 people, a law which increases the number of crimes punishable with the death penalty and by virtue of which new death sentences were passed in 2006 and 2007. Further death sentences for murder were pronounced at the end of 2007. The number of Moroccans condemned to death has gone up to 125. However, Morocco seems to be heading towards an abolition of the death penalty, as expressed by several high dignitaries of the regime³ and the legislator, who, in 2004, reduced from 22 to 11 the number of crimes punishable by the death penalty.

[**Algeria** – *Death penalty: suspended* – *Date of last execution: 1993*

In 1993, the ex-President Liamine Zeroual declared a moratorium on executions and in 2006, a government Bill aiming to abolish the death penalty was studied by the Ministry of Justice then by the Parliament. But the Algerian delegates declared themselves against abolition; so the death penalty has been maintained in the penal code. Numerous death sentences have been, and continue to be, pronounced, often in absentia, notably against Islamists.

[**Tunisia** – *Death penalty: suspended* – *Date of last execution: 1994*

In spite of a de facto abolition going back to 1991, and an explicit declaration by the Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali affirming that he “would never sign the enforcement measure for capital punishment”, the Tunisian judicial system has again begun to pronounce death sentences since 2003, of which two were in 2007. More than 100 prisoners are waiting on death row. A Tunisian Coalition came into being in June 2007; at the beginning of 2008, 25 delegates from several parties presented a government Bill aiming to abolish the death penalty in Tunisia.

[**Egypt** – *Death penalty: maintained* – *Date of last execution: 2006*

Egypt, which lays down the death penalty for a large number of crimes and offences, has seen the number of its death sentences increase since the establishment of the state of emergency (15 years ago), and turns more and more frequently to the death penalty on the grounds of an attack on the safety of the state.

The reference to Sharia law in the Constitution is one of the obstacles to abolition. Recently one of the most important Muslim leaders⁴ opposed the calls for abolition of capital punishment, explaining that this punishment is an intrinsic part of Islamic law.

[**Lebanon** – *Death penalty: maintained* – *Date of last execution: 2004*

Reintroduced in 1994 after a long moratorium, the death penalty is laid down for murder and attempted murder, for collaboration with Israel, terrorism, acts of insurrection and civil war. The last public execution goes back to 1998: two men were hung in front of a crowd of more than 1000 people. In spite of the promise made in 2001 by President Lahoud to respect a moratorium on executions, three prisoners were executed in 2004.

[**Jordan** – *Death penalty: maintained* – *Date of last execution: 2006*

In Jordan 27 crimes are punishable by the death penalty but for some years now the majority of sentences have been pronounced for terrorist crimes. On average, ten people are executed every year. However, Jordan has been slowly heading down the road to abolition since in 2006 the number of crimes punishable by the death sentence was reduced and a second reform of the same type should be adopted very soon. In addition, by ratifying several international treaties and the Statute of the International Criminal Court, Jordan is committing only to apply capital punishment for the most serious crimes.

Porto Rico, 4th october 2007

Puerto Rico must now face up the pressure from the United States, who want the reinstatement of the death penalty in Puerto Rican legislation. This little Caribbean island finds itself, in fact, in an unusual situation: the death penalty was abolished there in 1929, but continues to be a possibility as a result of American federal laws, since Puerto Rico is a “self-governing Commonwealth in association with the United States”.

In order to support the abolitionists in the Caribbean region, notably the Puerto Ricans, the World Coalition organised, on 4th October 2007, a press conference there, in collaboration with the Puerto Rican Coalition against the Death Penalty, to launch the World Day.

Meeting at the Colegio de Abogados in Miramar, several representatives of the abolitionist movement in the region played a part in this conference. **Carmen Hernandez**, President of the National Association of Criminal Defence Lawyers; **Edgardo Roman Espada** and **Oswaldo Burgos**, representatives of the Puerto Rican Coalition against the Death Penalty, gave an overview of the situation regarding the death penalty in the Caribbean region and called on the states to vote in favour of the resolution for a global moratorium.

Find all the documents on the World Coalition website:

<http://www.worldcoalition.org/modules/news/article.php?storyid=41>

Zoom

The death penalty in the Caribbean – facts and figures

[Abolitionist countries

| Country | Year of abolition | Year of last execution |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Colombia | 1910 | 1909 |
| Costa Rica | 1877 | Not known |
| El Salvador * | 1983 | 1973 |
| Grenada ** | --- | 1978 |
| Haiti | 1987 | 1972 |
| Honduras | 1956 | 1940 |
| Mexico | 2005 | 1937 |
| Nicaragua | 1979 | 1930 |
| Dominican Republic | 1966 | Not known |
| Surinam ** | --- | 1982 |
| Venezuela | 1963 | Not known |

* Abolitionist for ordinary crimes

** Abolitionist de facto

[Retentionist countries

| Country | Year of last execution | Year of last death sentence | Method of execution | Number of prisoners in death row |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Antigua and Barbuda | 1991 | 1996 | Hanging | 8 |
| Bahamas | 2000 | 2006 | Hanging | 28 |
| Barbados | 1984 | 2002 | Hanging | Not known |
| Belize | 1985 | 2001 | Hanging | 8 |
| Cuba | 2003 | 2003 | Firing squad | 52 |
| Dominica | 1986 | Not known | Hanging | 3 |
| Guatemala | 2000 | 2002 | Lethal injection | 21 |
| Guyana | 1997 | 2006 | Hanging | 23 |
| Jamaica | 1998 | 2004 | Hanging | 40 |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis | 1998 | Not known | Hanging | Not known |
| Saint Lucia | 1995 | Not known | Hanging | 5 |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | 1995 | Not known | Hanging | Not known |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 1999 | 2006 | Hanging | 84 |

Source: Puerto Rican Coalition against the Death Penalty

Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, 5th october 2007

In recent years the abolitionist movement has made some significant progress in the Great Lakes region. Rwanda abolished the death penalty in July 2007, thereby becoming the 10th abolitionist country in the world. Burundi could be on the point of abolishing, while in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Constitution has been purged of all references to capital punishment. In Uganda, there is a civil society and professional organisations that are very active in favour of abolition. These improvements however, remain fragile in this region that is still ravaged by conflicts, which is why the need to maintain a real momentum in favour of abolition is still necessary.

It is in the DRC, with the support of an active and mobilized Congolese Coalition, that the third regional press conference was organised to announce the World Day.

Under the auspices of the Congolese Minister for Human Rights, the press conference brought together representatives from the World Coalition and the Congolese coalition, diplomats, as well as representatives from the Great Lakes region.

In the audience the press conference brought together the different sensitivities of Congolese society. As well as journalists, there were magistrates and lawyers, deans of law faculties, students, representatives of national and international NGO's as well as all those dynamic individuals who support the abolitionist fight in the Great Lakes region. The conference provided an opportunity to explain to the press both the meaning of the resolution on a global moratorium and its challenges, as well as its impact in light of the realities in the DRC.

Find all the documents on the World Coalition website:

<http://www.worldcoalition.org/modules/news/article.php?storyid=41>

Zoom

The death penalty in the Great Lakes region – facts and figures

[**Burundi** – *Death penalty*: **maintained** – *Date of last execution*: **2001**

Premeditated homicide, sorcery, high treason, espionage, attempting to kill the head of state and cannibalism are capital crimes in Burundi. Although no execution has taken place since 2001, tens of death sentences were pronounced in 2004 and 2005. It is recorded that there are some 600 prisoners under sentence of death in the country, of which 450 are political prisoners released on bail: a large number of these belong to the former rebel group which is now in power and wishes to spare them the death penalty. In February 2007, the government handed over a draft of a new penal code to Parliament, in which the death penalty is abolished, but this revision has been delayed.

[**Uganda** – *Death penalty: maintained* – *Date of last execution: 1996*

The Ugandan penal code lays down 15 capital offences and until 2005 the death penalty was mandatory for certain crimes. The court martials may sentence soldiers and execute them immediately without possibility of appeal to the Supreme Court. In January 2005 the 417 Ugandan prisoners on death row , with the support of the prison authorities⁵, contested before the Constitutional Court the “legality and the constitutionality” of capital punishment, which was denounced as being “cruel, inhuman and degrading”. In June 2005, the Constitutional Court commuted the death sentences of the 417 prisoners, but this decision is awaiting confirmation by the Supreme Court, which also has to decide on whether the death penalty should be mandatory for certain crimes. More than 700 prisoners remain on death row in Uganda and death sentences continue to be passed. The treatment reserved for soldiers is particularly severe, the death sentence usually being carried out a few hours after the verdict, without possibility of appeal.

[**DRC** – *Death penalty: maintained* – *Date of last execution: 2003*

In the DRC homicide, treason, espionage and offences against the state are punishable with the death penalty. In 1999 President Laurent Désiré Kabila decreed a moratorium on executions, then suspended it in 2003. In February 2006 the death penalty was no longer a part of the Constitution, neither in terms of abolition, nor in terms of application, encouraging the abolitionist activists to argue that capital punishment is unconstitutional. At the beginning of 2008 an appeal was lodged before the Supreme Court of Justice. In spite of progress on certain points (for example, rape is no longer punishable with the death penalty since the revision of the penal code), the DRC distinguishes itself by a great number of death sentences pronounced after trials that are often hasty and unfair.

[**Rwanda** – *Death penalty: abolished* (July 2007) – *Date of last execution: 1998*

The abolition of the death penalty for all crimes was one of the conditions imposed by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda for the transfer to the Rwandan judicial system of those individuals presumed guilty of the genocide of 1994. The Rwandan Patriotic Front of President Paul Kagamé then presented a draft for abolition which was voted on in June by the Rwandan National Assembly and in July by the Senate.

Lisbon, Portugal, 9th october 2007

On the occasion of the conference organised by the European Union on the theme "Europe against the death penalty", the World Coalition held a press conference at the Belém Cultural Centre in Lisbon.

The Council of Europe, wishing to reaffirm in Lisbon its commitment to the abolition of the death penalty, organised a conference jointly with the Portuguese Presidency of the European Union and the European Commission to launch the first European Day against the Death Penalty.

Buoyed up by the institutionalizing of this Day, the World Coalition used this occasion to call on the states to support the resolution presented to the General Assembly of the United Nations on a global moratorium on executions.

Find all the documents on the World Coalition website:

<http://www.worldcoalition.org/modules/news/article.php?storyid=41>

New York, United States, 10th october 2007

It is in New York, headquarters of the United Nations, that the World Coalition decided to celebrate the World Day of 10th October 2007. A press conference was organised around key figures and activists, calling on the members of the United Nations to overwhelmingly support the resolution.

Three American celebrities honoured this press conference with their presence. **Mike Farrell**, actor and activist, talked of the death penalty situation in the United States, emphasizing miscarriages of justice, discrimination and the failure of the death penalty to act as a deterrent. **Sister Helen Prejean**, author of the best seller *Dead Man Walking*, spoke of the importance of educating everybody about the death penalty and stressed the cruel and inhuman nature of the treatment meted out to prisoners on death row. **Tim Robbins**, one of America's most politically involved directors and actors, explained how he realised the importance of education and dialogue when his film, inspired by Sister Helen Prejean's book was adapted for theatre and played in more than 130 universities in the United States, provoking numerous debates.

At the end of the press conference, the World Coalition, represented by several of its members, called on the representatives of the United Nations member states to overwhelmingly support the resolution in favour of a moratorium.

The conference, covered by the main press agencies in New York, was above all the occasion to raise awareness and to mobilize state representatives at the United Nations, many of whom came from retentionist countries, as well as from countries committed to the abolitionist cause.

Find all the documents on the World Coalition website:

<http://www.worldcoalition.org/modules/news/article.php?storyid=41...>

Zoom

The death penalty in the United States

The United States is one of the last so-called industrialized countries to use the death penalty. More than 3300 prisoners under sentence of death await their execution on America's death row, 42 prisoners were executed in 2007, of which two-thirds were in Texas and 36 out of the 50 American States maintain capital punishment.

However, a step forward was taken in December 2007, when New Jersey became the first American state to abolish the death penalty in its legislation for more than forty years.

In parallel the other retentionist states have been observing a sort of lull in their executions as they were waiting for a decision from the Supreme Court on the constitutionality of lethal injection. It was not maintaining the death penalty, nor even the validity of lethal injection that was in question: the Supreme Court had to decide on the techniques to be used in its application and must determine the level of

risk acceptable and the threshold of pain tolerable. By a 7-2 vote, the Supreme Court spoke out on the 16 April 2008 for the constitutionality of the current practices of lethal injection: the lull on executions is suspended and between 50 and 75 execution warrants should be signed between now and the end of the year 2008. Despite the majority of public opinion being in favour of the death penalty, the real progress made makes it possible to widen the debate nationally, especially since the number of executions per year is constantly falling, from 98 executions in 1999 to 42 executions in 2007 (source DPIC). These changes are essentially the result of the observation that the system governing capital punishment in the United States is failing: disproportionately expensive and prone to subjectivity, legal error and racism. Most of the research on the subject has reached these conclusions, as has the work carried out by the commissions introduced in certain states like, very recently, the Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice in California. Since 1976, 126 prisoners under sentence of death have been exonerated; according to research by the NCADP, at least four innocent people would have been executed. However, increasing numbers of prisoners have been released over the last few years, particularly thanks to the advent of DNA testing, which has intensified the doubts of those who believed that this was a just and fair punishment. These developments are opening up new possibilities for opponents of the death penalty and allowing different voices to be heard. The debate on the death penalty is no longer simply a moral issue, but now includes more practical arguments about which everyone will have something to say: police officers, political opposition, victims' families, exonerated death row prisoners etc. For the New Jersey Senator Raymond Lesniak, who sponsored his state's bill on abolition, it is even the key to success. According to him, it is particularly thanks to testimonies by victims' families, legal representatives and exonerated death row prisoners that the bill was positively received by New Jersey legislators.

[Abolitionist American states

Alaska, North Dakota, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York (death penalty declared unconstitutional by a state court), Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin.

[LOBBYING GOVERNMENTS

By way of making several targeted pleas, the members of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty have urged the member states of the United Nations to vote in favour of the resolution on the moratorium when it is presented to the General Assembly on 18th December 2007.

The bombardment of governments with letters has been one of the tools used by the World Coalition and its members in their campaign of lobbying. Countries have been identified, by function of the lobbying opportunities that each one offers : it was a question of convincing those states totally opposed to the resolution to abstain in the vote, and of actively encouraging the undecided states, or those intending to abstain, to vote in favour of the resolution. The member organisations of the World Coalition have worked in very close collaboration and all the countries targeted have received letters. The Paris Bar has for example, sent letters to all the bar associations in the targeted countries, so that these latter can put pressure on their own government. In addition, key figures who can influence these countries have also participated in this bombardment of letters: for example, Sidiki Kaba, former president of the International Federation on Human Rights, sent several letters to the African governments.

Meeting on the fringe of the OSCE (Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe) meeting

On 28th September 2007, Penal Reform International (PRI), the International Helsinki Federation on Human Rights, Amnesty International and the World Coalition against the Death Penalty invited government representatives and NGO's visiting Warsaw for the OSCE "Human Dimension Implementation Meeting ", to share their points of view on the draft resolution and to vote in favour of the moratorium on the death penalty at the UN General Assembly.

The representatives of PRI, Amnesty International and the World Coalition made a statement recalling the efforts made by the member countries of the OSCE in favour of abolition, in particular those in central Europe, and urged the other retentionist member states, amongst them the United States, to follow the global trend and not only to ratify the treaties and other international and regional instruments establishing abolition, but also to vote in favour of the global moratorium on executions.

Former death row prisoners give their testimony

On 16th October 2007, Amnesty International, an active member of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty, held **round table discussions** in the hall of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, in which three men took part who had been sentenced to death for crimes that they did not commit. These three former prisoners, from Japan, Uganda and the United States respectively, went back over their personal histories, telling of the mistakes and failures of the legal systems which resulted, between the three of them, in fifty four years on death row.

- **Sakae Menda** is the first Japanese prisoner on death row to be released, after 34 years spent in prison proclaiming his innocence. A great deal of reflection and the testimonies of prisoners under sentence of death convinced Mr Menda *“that is is essential to work together”* towards abolition of the death penalty, because of the intrinsic risk of the execution of innocent people.
- **Mpagi Edward Edmary** spent more than 18 years on death row in Uganda, accused of killing a man who was later found to be alive. His family campaigned for his release, providing evidence that Mr Edmary’s alleged victim was still alive, but it was not until 2000 that a presidential committee released him. He is now a committed advocate for abolition and continues to give up his time to help prisoners.
- **Ray Crone** spent two years on death row in an Arizona (United States) prison and eight further years in prison before being released thanks to DNA testing. *“I have seen people executed; I have seen innocent people in prison. I have seen how it all comes down to the question of race and personal wealth. I don’t want anybody to go through what I’ve been through, but this has happened to me, here, in the United States, it could happen to anyone.”*

The three men urged the member states of the United Nations to vote in favour of the resolution: *“I hope that you will take the testimonies that you have heard today into consideration; look into your hearts and your beliefs, and vote for this resolution”*. (Ray Crone)

These round table discussions were followed by several meetings with representatives of the member states to carry on discussions and to convince the states to vote in favour of the resolution on the moratorium.

A representative from the World Coalition meets the Thai authorities

Speedy Rice, active member of Death Penalty Focus and of the National Association of Criminal Defence Lawyers and representative of the Steering Committee of the World Coalition went to Thailand and met with several members of the government there to discuss the resolution on the global moratorium. He was accompanied by Dr. Danthong Breen of the Union for Civil Liberties and by Kwanravee Wangudom, of the Thai branch of Amnesty International. The objective of the visits was to convince Thailand to vote for the resolution or, at the very least, to abstain. Thailand is a retentionist country: the last execution was in 2003 and more than 900 people await their execution on death row, the majority of which have been sentenced for drug-related crimes. In 2007, executions were suspended as it was the 80th birthday of the King of Thailand and the 60th anniversary of his reign.

The delegation was received by, amongst others, the Prime Minister’s cabinet, the President of the National Economic and Social Advisory Council as well as the General Secretary for Justice.

Unfortunately Thailand voted against the resolution at the General Assembly of the United Nations on 18th December 2007.

[TWO REGIONAL WORKSHOPS IN RABAT (MOROCCO) AND KINSHASA (DRC)

On the fringes of the press conferences in Rabat, Morocco and Kinshasa, DRC, the World Coalition organised two workshops aiming to assist the regional alliances of players in the Arab world and in the Great Lakes region.

On 3rd October 2007, abolitionist activists from Morocco, the Yemen, Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia met in Rabat to discuss the recommendations and prospects for action in favour of abolition proposed within the framework of a study carried out by the World Coalition on “The death penalty in the Arab world: actors, arguments and futur prospects”.

Their meetings and exchanges helped to reinforce the alliances put in place with the creation in Jordan in July 2007 of an Arab Coalition against the Death Penalty. The workshop that was held on 5th October in Kinshasa brought together representatives from the DRC, Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda. Together they established the details of the situation regarding the death penalty in the Great Lakes region of Africa, and contributed to the expansion of a similar study led by the World Coalition on “The death penalty in the Great Lakes region of Africa”, which was to be the subject of a future publication.

The meeting in Kinshasa also provided the occasion for a pooling of abolitionist strategies, and allowed for the laying of the foundations of a Great Lakes Coalition against the Death Penalty.

[TOOLS OF MOBILIZATION AND INFORMATION

In order to inform and raise awareness in the best way possible, several tools developed by the World Coalition have been made available to its members of, the press and anybody else who requests them.

They are also available for downloading on the World Coalition's website:

World Day poster

This year the World Day was announced in a poster designed by Lou Bory, student at the National Superior School of Decorative Arts (ENSAD) in Paris and available in French, English and Arabic.

Global petition

Based on the "Moratorium 2000" petition launched by the Sant'Egidio Community and Amnesty International, the World Coalition has sent out an international appeal urging states to take action *"in favour of a world without execution, thereby contributing to the reinforcement of human dignity and participating in the progressive evolution of human rights"*.

"Facts and figures on the death penalty"

Being able to provide precise information on the reality of the death penalty worldwide is essential. This short and precise note lists, amongst other information, abolitionist countries and retentionist countries, the number of executions recorded and sentences, relevant legal instruments etc.

Public opinion awareness leaflet

Recalling the situation with the death penalty worldwide, this document presents the matter of a resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations in favour of a moratorium on executions, and calls for a large mobilization of citizens and activists on the occasion of the World Day against the Death Penalty.

"Local Initiatives" Kit

Containing, amongst other items, a presentation of the theme of the 2007 World Day and tools made available for informing and mobilizing citizens, the "local initiatives" kit is intended for all those persons and organisations wishing to take action for this day.

Lobbying flyer

This flyer gives courses of action for organisations anxious to get more involved in favour of the vote on the resolution on the moratorium by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Web banner

The World Coalition has made a web banner supporting the World Day available on its website, which is downloadable and animated, so that anybody who is interested can put it onto their Internet website or blog. It has been downloaded 651 times.

Press room

All the press cuttings relating to the five press conferences organised for the World Day in Rabat, New York, Puerto Rico, Lisbon and Kinshasa have been put on-line. For each conference there is a press release, a presentation of the contributors, a map and a summary of the situation with the death penalty in the region concerned.

*All the 2007 World Day tools are available on the World Coalition website:
<http://www.worldcoalition.org/modules/news/article.php?storyid=10>*

[3]

INITIATIVES

*"What frightens me is not the vitriolic words and actions of the bad people;
it's the appalling silence of the good people."*

Martin Luther King



Simulation of some executions' methods in Lima (Peru)

[37]

[THE WORLD TAKES ACTION

Throughout the world, from Asia to Europe via Africa and the Arab World, hundreds of people have taken action and have actively responded to the appeal for initiatives launched by the World Coalition against the Death Penalty on the occasion of the 5th edition of the World Day against the Death Penalty on 10th October 2007. Taking as a starting point the theme chosen by the Coalition, “the global moratorium on executions”, NGOs, associations, abolitionist activists or even groups of individuals have decided to act and to suggest various actions to inform and raise the awareness of the maximum number of people about the reality of the death penalty worldwide and about the imminent vote on the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations in favour of a global moratorium. In order to attract the attention of the public and the media, the organisers taking part in this World Day have tried to outdo each other in the originality of their initiatives: the setting up of a living exposition, film shows followed by debates, fake hanging scenes in Paris etc.

Organised, motivated, and energetic in their fight for the global abolition of the death penalty, the organisers of initiatives have succeed in raising the awareness of, and informing, hundreds of passers-by, students and pupils, as well as spreading the message about abolition and the global petition widely, in particular to the young generation.

This year **more than 407 initiatives across 60 countries** were counted: in Europe, 18 countries took part, and 18 countries in Africa also, 10 countries in Asia and the Pacific, 8 in the Americas, as well as 5 countries in the Arab World which is still largely retentionist.

The importance of individual initiatives

Very often it is associations of activists in favour of abolition or the defence of human rights that organise initiatives on the World Day against the Death Penalty. However, individual initiatives, often less visible, are just as important as the more “spectacular” initiatives. Every action counts on the road to global abolition!

This year the involvement of individuals in the World Day was particularly noticeable in actions such as sending the global petition around to personal and professional contacts, a specific planning of radio programmes by presenters in favour of abolition...

Zoom

Made in the USA

An assistant professor at Texas Tech University chose to organise, in collaboration with a lawyer specializing in the death penalty (Philip Wischkaemper, Odell Barnes's lawyer), the screening of a film and a debate for students and professors at his

university. The documentary *Made in the USA* tells the story of the execution of Odell Barnes in Texas, on 1st March 2000.

According to this professor, this meeting had a real effect on the students who, he says, “*even today, (they) stop at my office to continue the discussion on the death penalty*”. This is even more positive given that in Texas the “culture” of the death penalty is rooted in the legal system and in people’s mentalities.

For the majority of Texans there is no question of abolishing it.

A student who was present at the conference tells the story:

“This lawyer explained to us how corruption is eating away at the American legal system. Judges don’t want to complicate affairs too much, so they prefer to ignore the facts. This lack of interest that they show with regard to human life is very shocking. In addition, many Americans confess that they are tired of having to pay so many taxes, and on top of this they don’t want to have to pay to build new prisons – Texan prisons are currently completely full. Would they react in the same way if a member of their family – even if it’s not them personally - found themselves in this situation ?”

Testimony

“People’s interest in the World Day is fantastic: I thought that passers-by wouldn’t show much interest, but in fact, they ask lots of questions and come to sign the petition.”

Ahskan, activist, Vancouver, Canada

[EUROPE

Europe has been the scene of numerous initiatives in support of the 2007 World Day and the global moratorium. The majority of members of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty organised initiatives. The local branches of organisations like Amnesty International and ACAT (Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture), have shown a real involvement, increasing the number of local initiatives and appeals to sign the global petition.

The actions have been very diverse: signature campaigns, distribution of postcards reminding people of the petition for the global moratorium, conferences, exhibitions, lobbying letters addressed to the authorities encouraging them to support the vote on the resolution, debates, concerts, workshops in schools, poster campaigns, press releases, releasing of balloons by children, theatre performances, stands for awareness-raising set up in the street, the airing of adverts and interviews on the radio⁶...

The aim of these initiatives was to remind the population of Europe, and in particular the young generation, for whom the abolition of this punishment is an asset, of

the importance of a judicial system without the death penalty on a global level. The reality of its use in the world, of the methods of execution and of the daily life of prisoners under the sentence of death has been brought up through film screenings, setting up tables with books on the theme in libraries, debates... *“Running an information stand on the reality of the death penalty has allowed us to attract people’s attention because many wish that there were still a death penalty in France, in particular for paedophiles and rapists”*, declared the organiser of an ACAT initiative.

Europe against the death penalty: a joint declaration...

On 9th October 2007, officials from the Council of Europe and the European Union, as well as representatives from their member states, met in Lisbon during an international conference against the death penalty, organised by the Portuguese Presidency of the EU with the support of the European Commission. A joint declaration signed by the two institutions established the will of Europe to promote the global abolition of the death penalty. In this way Europe aims to reinforce opposition to capital punishment and to put pressure on those countries still using it to stop doing so. This political commitment is matched by financial support for concrete projects carried out under the framework of the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights⁷.

The World Coalition, on the occasion of this event of international significance, organised a press conference about the World Day on the fringe of the Lisbon Conference.

...and the establishment of a European Day against the Death Penalty

Some weeks earlier, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe had decided to proclaim 10th October the European Day against the Death Penalty, linking it to the international day organised by the World Coalition.

“I am very pleased at the decision taken by the Committee of Ministers to make 10th October the European Day against the Death Penalty. This symbolizes the work of the Council of Europe, which has transformed our continent into one death-penalty free zone, under the terms of the European Convention on Human Rights.” (Terry Davis, General Secretary of the Council of Europe).

The official proclamation by the Council of Europe of the European Day against the Death Penalty took place during the Lisbon Conference whilst the many political personalities gathered together recalled the necessity of a European involvement for mobilization on a global scale.

Gaining the approval of the European Commission took a little longer. In fact, the previous Polish government of the highly Conservative Kaczynski brothers vetoed the institutionalization of such a day⁸, a veto which was definitively lifted by their successor. It was finally on 7th December 2007 that the EU Council of Ministers of Justice approved the official creation of the European Day against the Death Penalty.

192 chairs for 192 states

In **Germany**, in a park in Berlin, Amnesty International set out 192 chairs representing the 192 member states of the General Assembly of the United Nations, each one having a specific colour by virtue of the status of the death penalty in its legislation. An enormous ballot paper in favour of the moratorium was signed by the pupils of a school in Berlin, the musician Max Herre and the director of Amnesty International Germany.

Dead Man Walking at the opera

The Vienna State Opera (**Austria**) adapted and staged the book *Dead Man Walking*, by Sister Helen Prejean, a testimony by this American nun from the Saint Joseph community who accompanied several death row inmates until the moment of their execution, and who has since ceaselessly campaigned for the abolition of the death penalty worldwide.

“Imagine that this is your last meal!”

In **Denmark**, the local branch of Amnesty International organised, in 38 different towns, a living exposition representing the last meal of the prisoner sentenced to death, inviting the public to reflect on what their last meal might be like. This representation was made in collaboration with several restaurants, who served this famous “last meal” as their dish of the day, and who had printed on their napkins and table mats information about the worldwide situation regarding the death penalty and about the appeal for signatures on the international petition. In three large towns (Copenhagen, Aarhus and Odense), a prison kitchen was reconstructed in a park: individuals dressed as prisoners were sitting in front of their last meal whilst activists dressed as prison guards got passers-by to sign the global petition printed on cardboard plates. The media reported this information widely in the local press, both written and televised.

Fake hanging “like they do it in Iran”

In Paris (**France**), several associations involved in the fight against the death penalty (ACAT, Together Against the Death Penalty, the Iranian Human Rights League, FIDH, LDH, RSF...) organised fake, life-sized hangings, thereby denouncing the upsurge in executions in Iran (more than 244 executions that year at the end of October 2007).

In a scene aiming to shock, whilst respecting Iranian techniques of execution, three dummies dressed in black were hung from the end of a crane, swaying in front of an audience of silent demonstrators, also dressed in black.

The European media reported widely on these initiatives, whether on a local, regional or national level. In particular the radio was one of the most widely used means of raising the awareness of the greatest number of people about the death penalty and the World Day: interviews with activists, reports, campaign presentations and appeals for signatures... Many radio stations, in particular local ones, reported the campaign for global abolition.

Highly motivated small organisations

The World Coalition brings together over 70 associations and organisations worldwide, united in the same fight for global abolition. If the most well-known human rights organisations (such as Amnesty International or FIAN) take action in a very organised way, often in several regions of the world at the same time, the World Day provides the occasion for small organisations to set up events on their own scale and to make their commitment in favour of abolition known. In spite of often having modest means, these organisations have again demonstrated their energy for, and involvement in, the celebration of the World Day.

- **The Federation of Liberal Students (Belgium):** the FEL circulated a press release supporting the tabling of a motion for a resolution aiming to establish Belgium's commitment to the global abolition of the death penalty by officially recognising the date of 10th October as the Day against the Death Penalty.
- **Struggle for Justice (LPJ) (France):** the LPJ asked the multimedia libraries in Montpellier to display works about the death penalty during the week of 10th October and to offer posters and leaflets to the readers. A bookshop in Montpellier also set up a table of works on this subject.
- **The National Collective in Solidarity with Mumia Abu-Jamal, the "Together We Will Save Mumia" Collective (France):** as well as the publication of a press release on the World Day against the Death Penalty, these two collectives organised, at the "La clé" cultural centre (Paris), the screening of the film *Frances Newton's Last Words*, by Thomas Geifer. This deeply moving testimony tells the story of the life of this poor, black woman, who was executed in Texas in 2005 after 18 years in prison, sentenced for the murders of her husband and her two children, murders that she always denied. The film provoked an impassioned debate in the hall. In parallel to this initiative, a crowd gathered, as on every Wednesday between 6pm and 8pm, in front of the American Consulate in Paris.

[NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

The death penalty is a very sensitive subject in a context where the state and religion are indissociably linked. Its maintenance in this region of the world is very strongly linked to the philosophy of Islamic Law and Sharia, although these texts do not form the basis of all national legislation of the countries in this region. The texts of the Koran – or at least their most widely accepted interpretation – in effect put limits on the right to life and consider the use of capital punishment : under the terms of the Law of Talion⁹, certain crimes are punishable by the death penalty, in particular by hanging or stoning. If certain countries stand apart by their status

as abolitionist states de facto (executions have been suspended for several years but capital punishment is still mentioned in the criminal legislation of these states, and sentences are even passed by courts), as is the case for Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria, other countries carry out executions on a grand scale to punish both serious felony as well as lesser offences (notably in Iran, in Saudi Arabia etc.). However, voices are being raised in these countries demanding a more humane criminal justice. Activists hope that the opinion of the majority will be challenged again and that the sacred texts will be applied in the light of the actual context and in a more humanist fashion.

Zoom

Iran: the impossible mobilization against the death penalty

Certain states, like Iran, do not allow their criminal practice to be questioned: in parallel with a terrible wave of executions organised for "reasons of public security" (at least 298 executions in 2007, versus 177 in 2006, and already 35 for the month of January 2008 alone), supported by the majority of popular opinion, the Iranian authorities have taken care to silence one of the rare voices daring to speak out against the death penalty in the country. Journalist and writer, Emadeddin Baghi, whose Association for the Right to Life has joined the World Coalition, was sentenced to three years in prison. *"All this is because of my articles and interviews"*, explains Emadeddin Baghi, who appealed his sentence¹⁰. All his books have been banned and he has already spent three years behind bars. Other activists, like Hossein Mahoutiha, member of the Iranian Human Rights Activist Groups in Europe and in Canada, is participating in the struggle from Quebec. For him, returning freely to Iran is out of the question, although his work is made particularly difficult by the lack of transparency surrounding death sentences : secrecy shrouds the entire procedure as even lawyers cannot speak freely with their clients, and most executions are only announced after the event... Most of the Iranian abolitionists count on international mobilization and the reactions of foreign authorities to help the struggle, for example, on the subject of the execution of juveniles. *"A lack of political will, censorship and the absence of a mass movement mean that our actions remain limited"*, he admits. However, things are happening. *"Groups like ours didn't exist six years ago, and the movement is gaining ground. Even I didn't react in the same way a few years ago"*, says Hossein Mahoutiha. Last progress to date: on 29th January 2008 Iran decided that public hangings should henceforth be submitted for the agreement of the head of the judiciary and that broadcasting images of them should be forbidden. To be continued...

In the Middle East and North Africa region there are many who have taken action for the 5th edition of the World Day: raising the awareness of the population, distribution of T-shirts and posters, signature campaigns, letters addressed to the authorities

and to governments to ask for the abolition of capital punishment and the reassessment of death sentences, declarations from activist associations...¹¹

The Lebanon: a very well-attended conference

In the Lebanon, the La Sagesse Higher Institute of Law in Beirut organised a big conference bringing together almost 80 people amongst them professors, students Lebanese judges, religious dignitaries and key figures such as the American activist Speedy Rice, the former French Minister of Justice Robert Badinter¹² and the current Italian Minister of Justice Clemente Mastella¹³. Its theme: "Abolishing the Death Penalty in the Lebanon and Worldwide: Legal and Social Perspectives".

Raising the awareness of the greatest number through television

In **Jordan**, Tahar Boumedra, the Regional Director of Penal Reform International¹⁴, gave an interview on BBC Arabic service, in which he tackled the subject of the death penalty in relation to the positive Arab law and to Sharia. He used this opportunity to launch an appeal to the authorities of the region to support the adoption of the resolution on the global moratorium at the General Assembly of the United Nations. In **Palestine**, in Ramallah, the Palestinian Coalition against the Death Penalty had the opportunity of organising a televised conference and, on the same occasion, reminded people of its fight in favour of the abolition of capital punishment.

The publication of a reference tool

Penal Reform International and the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies published a book entitled "Studies on the Death Penalty and the Right to Life in the Arab World", which consists of 18 chapters on the situation regarding the death penalty in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Yemen, the Lebanon, etc.

[SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Of the 47 States making up Sub-Saharan Africa, 14 have abolished the death penalty to date, the last being Rwanda. In addition, even where the death penalty is still in force in the other States, many of them have suspended executions for some time, thereby becoming "abolitionist de facto".

However, certain countries, like Sudan, are exceptions in this movement towards abolition: this State, for example, is amongst the six States that have carried out the greatest number of executions in 2006, with China, the United States, Iraq, Iran and Pakistan.

African activists and many sympathizers have put a great deal of effort into the success of the 2007 World Day. There have been increasing numbers of initiatives in more than 14 countries.

Conferences, peaceful marches, radio broadcasts, signature campaigns, the displaying of banners in town centres, publication of articles in national newspapers etc.: such were the numerous initiatives taken by the African abolitionists.

A targeted and profitable plea

Taking on the World Coalition's action of making pleas in favour of the adoption of the resolution on the moratorium, the ACAT groups of Benin, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, the Central African Republic, and Madagascar have undertaken a campaign in partnership with FIACAT to get the governments of these states to support the resolution when it is voted on. These activities paid off because Benin, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Mali and Madagascar voted in favour of the resolution; however, the Central African Republic abstained.

In parallel with this, the ACAT groups undertook a signature campaign for the global petition at the time of the demonstrations that they organised for the World Day, which allowed FIACAT to collect more than 15500 signatures¹⁵.

Things are happening in the Democratic Republic of Congo!

On the occasion of a 'week against the death penalty', the Congolese campaigners have been very active, with 29 initiatives throughout the country: articles in the press, awareness-raising actions, peaceful marches, letters sent to the authorities, press conferences, workshops, a signature campaign for the petition, radio broadcasts, the hanging of banners to raise the awareness of communities, distribution of leaflets informing the public about the use of the death penalty by the civil courts and the Congolese armed forces. The numerous actions have allowed the voices of abolitionists to be heard, in a country where there have been no executions since 2003, but where death sentences are still frequently passed.

A week of actions for abolition

In Benin, where the death penalty is still written into the penal code, but is only rarely used, a whole week of action was organised by ACAT-Benin: prayer vigils, interviews with prisoners, pleas to the authorities for the abolition of the death penalty as part of the work on the new criminal procedure code, a peaceful march, radio broadcast and appeal for signatures on the global petition, conferences and debates etc.

Informing the Togolese population

The African Forum against the Death Penalty, a Togolese organisation, made a surprising observation: the majority of the population are unaware that capital punishment is part of Togolese legislation as it has been abolished in practice. So Togolese activists decided to carry out a "door-to-door" operation in three districts of Lomé, raising the awareness of the greatest number about abolition through individual conversations.

In parallel to this, the film *An Ideal Culprit* by François-Xavier Lestrade was screened at a film show and debate evening, where the principal discussion was around the strategies to be put in place for the definitive abolition of capital punishment in Togo. Amnesty International Togo also undertook to inform the Togolese population by broadcasting interviews on two popular radio stations, putting up banners, the distribution of leaflets on the reality of the death penalty and petition campaigns in favour of the abolition of the death penalty in Togolese legislation.

The death penalty is very prevalent in Asia, particularly in China which is the country in the world that executes the greatest number of people each year; however, a precise evaluation is difficult because of state secrecy surrounding the executions (7500 to 8000 executions per year according to certain Chinese researchers). Japan, along with the United States, is the only industrialized country to maintain the death penalty in its legislation and to carry out executions regularly: today, more than a hundred people await their execution on Japan's death row.

Often in Asia the death penalty is applied for non-violent crimes: in China for example, 68 charges are punishable with capital punishment: bribery, drug trafficking, computer hacking etc.

However, the number of campaigners against the death penalty is increasing in the region and the work of networks, amongst them the Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network¹⁶, creates a coalition of forces and helps to advance the fight for abolition. For the 2007 World Day tens of initiatives have been carried out to appeal for the adoption of a global moratorium on executions: marches and candlelight vigils, forums, film screenings, open letters and pleas to the authorities, an awareness-raising campaign, radio interviews...

Taiwan takes action

On the occasion of the 2nd Murder by Numbers Film Festival in Taipei (from 12th to 14th October) and in Kaohsiung (19th to 21st October), the TAEDP (Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty) organised the screening of films on the subject of the death penalty, as well as discussion forums and a press conference. In the course of these demonstrations, the petition for the global moratorium, translated into Chinese, was widely circulated, which was the subject of seven articles in the media, one of which was in the China Post.

Victims' families take action too

In Brisbane, Australia, families of Australians sentenced to death in other countries responded to the appeal from the organisations Australians Against Capital Punishment, Just Peace and Amnesty International Australia. After a candlelight march and a forum against the use of the death penalty, the prisoners' families and lawyers made several speeches in favour of abolition. For this occasion the singer Margret Roadknight also gave a small concert. Opponents of capital punishment were invited to write to the Prime Minister, to the opposition parties and to the media to make their opinion on this subject known.

Save Marilou Ronario and all mistreated migrant Filipino workers

In addition to actions to raise awareness and provide information during the national prisons and criminal justice week (from 22nd to 28th October), Filipinos have carried out several initiatives to celebrate the World Day against the Death Penalty. The organisation of Mistreated Migrant Filipino Workers (TPEM or OFW) and its

sympathizers joined together with other associations¹⁷ to intensify the campaign for Marilou Ronario¹⁸ and all the Filipino workers held on death row in Asia and the Middle East (34 people to date according to migrant Filipino associations). A protest meeting took place on 10th October. Since then, the death sentence of Marilou Ronario has been commuted to life imprisonment.

[NORTH AMERICA

Although Canada abolished the death penalty in 1962, the United States is amongst those countries having executed the greatest number of people in 2006. Not only organisations, but also individuals took action for the 2007 World Day, denouncing this situation unworthy of a democracy and raising the awareness of the American population about abolition and the death penalty.

In Canada as in the United States the campaign for signatures on the global petition was made a priority by the abolitionist campaigners. American activists also organised a great number of conferences, notably in universities and secondary schools, in the presence of lawyers recognised for their fight against the death penalty.

“We reject a policy of revenge enforced in the name of the victims”

The “Texas Journey of Hope”, set up by the organisation “Journey of Hope – from Violence to Healing”, took place from 12th to 18th October 2007 in the regions of Houston and Huntsville, renowned for their death rows. During the whole of this period a succession of meetings and conferences took place in as many venues as possible: churches, schools, universities and civic associations. A concert was also organised to raise money, in the presence of Sister Helen Prejean, the singer Nanci Griffith and the folk singer Charly King (on 13th October). Members of murder victims’ families, families of prisoners on death row and of executed prisoners were all present as well as activists against the death penalty. The Journey Tour actually allowed the voices of families and friends of murder victims to be heard, who reject any policy of vengeance and fight for the abolition of the death penalty.

Testimony

“I didn’t know that the mobilization for the World Day was so important, and it’s essential to move us along the road to abolition. It’s very important because without the support of all these people, there couldn’t be any change. The World Day provides an opportunity to educate and raise people’s awareness [...] about the reality of this barbarous practice. That is what’s important because people come down in favour of the death penalty without even knowing the reality behind it.”

Travis Runnels, death row inmate, currently in Polunsky prison in Texas

Blog: <http://deathrow.20minutes-blogs.fr>

[LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

This region of the world is at different stages in the fight for abolition of the death penalty: whereas some countries have totally abolished capital punishment (Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela...), the majority of these states' legislations lay down the death penalty for exceptional crimes, in particular those coming under martial law (Brazil, Argentina, Peru...). The Caribbean Islands are on the other hand, largely retentionist, like Guatemala and Belize.

Peru plans to take a step backwards

The Peruvian government, which has only abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes, but has maintained it for crimes committed under exceptional circumstances (in particular in times of war), has recently proposed three government bills broadening the scope for application of this punishment¹⁹. The population of Peru did not make any particular protest against these bills, which is why Amnesty International Peru decided to inform and mobilize the general public. On 10th October a living exposition was set out in the middle of the street as well as a fake sale of items used for executions throughout the world: rope, electric chair, syringes for lethal injection etc.

This initiative, organised in a very tongue-in-cheek tone, was really successful, attracting both members of the public and journalists. In addition, one television channel decided to broadcast it live on the air.

The organisation hammered home the following message: *"Instead of insisting on the use of the death penalty, you could also consider its total removal from the penal code. The most important thing to remember is that killing is killing."*

Puerto Rico takes action in favour of abolition

The Puerto Rican Coalition Against the Death Penalty organised a presentation of the book *Los que murieron en la Horca (Those who died by hanging)* telling the story of people hanged in Puerto Rico, before 1927. The posters of the 3rd World Congress against the Death Penalty (Paris, February 2007) and local works of art were also displayed.

This action followed on from the press conference on 3rd October organised in collaboration with the Puerto Rican and World Coalitions.

[INTERNATIONAL: FILMS AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

On the occasion of the World Day, campaigners for abolition chose to celebrate 10th October by screening films and documentaries about the death penalty : Amnesty International screened a video entitled “Stop the death penalty – worldwide abolition now !”, which put the emphasis on the brutality and cruelty of the different methods used for executions worldwide. The slogan: *“Make sure that your country votes in favour of the resolution on the global moratorium”* was broadcast widely. The “English Daily Show”, a television programme broadcast by Acadia University in Canada, devoted its daily English lesson on the Internet to the World Day against the Death Penalty. Notably students from this university were invited to give their opinions on capital punishment.

MTV France also scheduled a clip celebrating the World Day against the Death Penalty on three of its channels that are broadcast in France (MTV, MTV Idol, MTV Pulse).

Other activists chose to broadcast reports on the way in which they celebrated the World Day: this was the case, for example, with the Worker-Communist Party of Iran and affiliated organisations who organised an exhibition in the street in Vancouver (Canada) on the death penalty in Iran. The organisers were interviewed and were able to share their impressions on the mobilization for the World Day. ‘Texas Journey – March to End Executions’ also screened a film on the Internet going back over the good moments, as well as speeches by ex-death row prisoners and abolitionist campaigners.

[4]

MEDIA COVERAGE



"Imagine your last meal" – Copenhagen (Denmark)

[51]

WORLD DAY AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY
10TH OCTOBER 2007

This year the media coverage of the World Day has been extensive, and, in particular, has been on an international level. Media across all continents have announced in advance the World Day and its programme of events. They then followed this up by reporting on the most remarkable initiatives, drawing up special reports and passing on the campaign message of the World Coalition.

The large global press agencies, as well as the major written, audio-visual and Internet media, have covered this Day. The five press conferences organised by the World Coalition have also ensured a broad media coverage of the event and the informing of the general public as to the organisation and the content of such a mobilization.

The review of the press available from the World Coalition comprises tens of articles from around the world²⁰.

[REVIEW OF THE REGIONAL PRESS

In Europe, the major national newspapers have covered the World Day extensively. In addition to narrating the events of the day, journalists have, for the most part, put together reports with information on the situation regarding the death penalty worldwide, giving specific figures and facts. Many newspapers have, for example, focussed on particular countries, like the *Libre Belgique* (Belgium) which talked about the execution of juvenile offenders in Iran²¹, or the *Marseillaise* (France) which wrote a “*Gruesome geography book of the countries that execute*”²². The *Nouvel Observateur* (France) devoted an article to the popularity of the death penalty in the United States²³. The establishing of a European Day against the Death Penalty was also communicated by the European media, amongst them *Le Monde* (France)²⁴ and BBC News (Great Britain)²⁵. The support of associations for death row inmates was also handled by the media, and Swiss Info published an article entitled “*Bringing hope to death row*”²⁶.

In the Middle East and North Africa the media coverage has been good, notably in Morocco where one of the press conferences organised by the World Coalition and the Moroccan Coalition against the Death Penalty was held. This also opened up the debate on the setting up of a national moratorium on executions, in particular via reports, like the one that the *Gazette du Maroc* produced at Kenitra prison²⁷. Several web sites and newspapers written by expatriate Iranian citizens have also provided information about the World Day, recalling the shocking record in Iran regarding executions and the preference of the authorities for public execution “shows”²⁸.

In Africa, the World Day was the occasion to relaunch the debate on the abolition of the death penalty in the retentionist African countries, such as Mali and Burundi²⁹. Several newspapers in the Democratic Republic of Congo have covered the events of the World Day and the launch of the global campaign in favour of the global moratorium on executions. This was also the occasion to raise the issue of abolition

in the DRC and to highlight the actions and challenges of the Congolese abolitionist campaigners in this country that remains retentionist³⁰.

On the American continent and in the Caribbean Islands, the Puerto Rican media covered the press conference organised by the World Coalition and the Puerto Rican Coalition against the Death Penalty. The newspaper articles have focussed particularly on Puerto Rico's special situation, under the power of American federal law³¹. The importance of the imminent vote at the General Assembly of the United Nations was also widely discussed in the Caribbean media³². As for a small section of the American press, they did tackle the question of the death penalty in the United States, notably via the question of the constitutionality of the lethal injection, which was then the subject of an appeal to the American Supreme Court³³. Media present at the press conference organised in New York by the World Coalition published articles on the vote on the resolution on the global moratorium³⁴.

In the Pacific the media coverage has been very good, notably in New Zealand where the Prime Minister Helen Clark made a declaration announcing the support of her country for the resolution on the global moratorium³⁵.

Finally, in Asia, the Taiwanese press covered the events organised in Taipei for the World Day extensively. The meeting between Mario Marazziti, representing the World Coalition against the Death Penalty, and President Chen Shui-Bian on the subject of the resolution on the global moratorium was the subject of several articles explaining the historical challenge of this resolution³⁶. In India, several articles have also been published on the World Day, talking in particular about the events organised for this occasion³⁷. In Pakistan, the *Post* and the *Pakistan Time* published two articles³⁸ on the appeal by the European Union to support the resolution on the global moratorium.

[INTERNET SITES

The Internet is undeniably a fantastic vehicle for information and an essential communication method for all the campaigns launched by the World Coalition in favour of abolition.

Numerous information websites, websites for the defence of human rights and even of political parties have taken the initiative this year to communicate the campaign in favour of the global moratorium by, for example, using the web banner or proposing a link to the World Coalition petition.

[BLOGS

Ease of publication, great editorial freedom, the ability to interact with readers: such are the principal characteristics of blogs. A true social phenomenon, the blog is currently enjoying great success in the Internet world. These websites which collate several letters usually published chronologically by one or multiple authors (the “bloggers”), may be accessed freely, and constitute personal journals wherein the authors can add, in addition to a usually textual content, links to other sites or to multimedia information. Appearing as a new mass media, blogs can be read daily by thousands of people. Certain bloggers also use them to demonstrate their independence and resourcefulness.

This year bloggers worldwide decided to relay information relating to the World Day and to invite their readers to sign the Coalition’s petition on-line.

The majority of the blogs which talked about the World Day are personal journals wherein the authors share information about their daily life but also about their preoccupations and their questioning of social subjects such as the death penalty. This is the case, for example, with the blog “The XXIInd century may or may not be a Utopia...”³⁹ which dedicated a letter to the World Day against the Death Penalty and to the situation with the death penalty worldwide, or the blog “Me in a dreadful state”⁴⁰ which took up an article by the Moroccan journalist Amina Sahli on the Rabat press conference and the death penalty in Morocco. The blogger Nicolas Blain invited his readers to surf the World Coalition website⁴¹. “My Eyes and Thoughts behind camera”⁴², the blog of a young amateur photographer, published on his part the photo of a work by Yhonnie Scarce, representing a cross made up of fifteen little hanged figurines.

Other blogs were published by men and women or political and/or civic movements who recall their commitment to the abolition of the death penalty on the World Day. This is the case, for example, of “Human Rights and Freedoms”, the blog from the secretariat for Human Rights and Freedoms of the French socialist party⁴³ or even that of Alain Hubler, a municipal councillor from Lausanne (Switzerland)⁴⁴.

Certain blogs deal specifically with themes related to the defence of human rights and are sometimes used by human rights organisations or activists as a tool to raise awareness and inform the general public: the blog “Derechos – Urgent actions”⁴⁵, which calls for the mobilization of citizens, urged its readers to sign the global petition for the global moratorium.

Certain blogs are wholly dedicated to the death penalty. These journals have reserved their coverage specifically for the World Day against the Death Penalty and to the resolution on the global moratorium. Here is a non-exhaustive list:

- **Abolish the Death Penalty**
<http://deathpenaltyusa.blogspot.com/>
 - **Asia Death Penalty**
<http://asiadeathpenalty.blogspot.com/>
 - **Barbara's Journey toward Justice**
<http://barbarasblogspot.blogspot.com/2007/09/world-day-against-death-penalty-oct10.html>
 - **Death Penalty News**
<http://deathpenaltynews.blogspot.com/2007/10/10-octobre-2007-5e-journe-mondiale.html>
 - **Death Penalty Thailand**
<http://deathpenaltythailand.blogspot.com/>
 - **For Victims, Against the Death Penalty**
<http://mvfhr.blogspot.com/2007/10/world-day-against-death-penalty.html>
 - **In death row, blog de Travis Runnels, condamné à mort au Texas**
<http://deathrow.blog.20minutes.fr/>
 - **Le Maroc contre la peine de mort**
<http://peinedemortamaroc.over-blog.com/archive-10-03-2007.html>
 - **Tennessee Coalition to Abolish the State Killing**
<http://tcask.blogspot.com/2007/10/world-day-against-death-penalty.html>
 - **Texas Death Penalty Blog**
<http://texasdeathpenalty.blogspot.com/2007/11/death-penalty-calendar.html>
 - **The Death Penalty Debate**
<http://deathpenalty3.proboards103.com/index.cgi?board=global&action=display&thread=1191869148>
- ...

[5]

FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD DAY

"The death penalty is incompatible with human beings' highest thoughts and noblest dreams over a period of two thousand years."

Jean Jaurès



Some activists mobilized against the massive use of death penalty in Iran, Paris (France)

[57]

WORLD DAY AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY
10TH OCTOBER 2007

[THE ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION FOR A MORATORIUM ON THE DEATH PENALTY]

On Tuesday 18th December 2007, the General Assembly of the United Nations (UNGA) gathered for a plenary session, adopted the resolution calling for a global moratorium on executions, with a view to the total abolition of the death penalty worldwide. This historic text marks a major turning point on the road to abolition; two similar draft resolutions had been rejected in the 70's⁴⁶.

The wording was first adopted in mid-November by the Third Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations, which examines draft resolutions on questions relating to human rights before submitting them to the General Assembly. The resolution underlines the fact that the application of the death penalty "undermines human dignity", that "there is no conclusive evidence" of the death penalty's deterrent value and that any miscarriage of justice in its implementation is "irreversible and irreparable".

On the one hand, it commits all retentionist states to "progressively restrict the use of the death penalty" and to "reduce the number of offences" subject to capital punishment; on the other hand, it urges all abolitionist states "not to reintroduce [the death penalty]". Finally, those states are called "to establish a moratorium on executions as a first step towards abolishing the death penalty"⁴⁷.

The wording of the resolution presented to the General Assembly was **passed by 104 states, 29 having abstained and 54 having voted against**⁴⁸.

The legal force of the resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly

The Charter of the United Nations gives to the UNGA responsibilities in the area of human rights⁴⁹. The role of the UNGA is principally advisory, in contrast to the Security Council which has executive powers.

In conformity with article 17 of the Rules of Procedure of the organisation, the UNGA takes its decisions, for the most part, in plenary session, through resolutions. Each member state only has one vote. On questions dealing with peace, international security, the admission of new members and budgets, decisions are taken with a two-thirds majority. All other decisions are taken with a simple majority, that is to say, with a majority of the members present.

The conclusions of the UNGA have the force of recommendations, and therefore have no binding legal application. However, the member states are obliged to examine the resolution in good faith.

In addition, the UNGA represents the international community, which means that the recommendations can be morally and politically compelling: they are undeniably means of exerting moral and political pressure. Therefore, if a state is hostile to a recommendation adopted by a large majority and on the basis of a broad consensus decision by the international community, this state will find itself on the defensive and obliged to justify its position.

The long road to the adoption of the resolution calling for a global moratorium...

The adoption of the resolution on 18th December 2007 calling for a global moratorium on executions was the fruit of a long political and diplomatic process. Many states in all regions of the world have done more than just abolish the death penalty in their legislation: they have led and supported international initiatives with a view to abolishing this punishment globally. This development has been largely due to the constant reduction in the number of states practising the death penalty and, correlatively, to the increase in the number of states opposed to the death penalty. In 1971 and 1977, the UNGA adopted two resolutions on the death penalty without a vote, which specifically mentioned the need to guarantee the right to life. The UNGA declared in its resolution 32/61: *"the main objective to be pursued in the matter of capital punishment is to progressively restrict the number of offences for which capital punishment may be imposed, with a view to the desirability of abolishing this punishment in all countries"*. For all that, these resolutions did not yet call for member states to respect a global moratorium or a total abolition of the death penalty.

In parallel to this the UNGA multiplied the number of initiatives aiming to limit the scope of application of the death penalty and to put in place guarantees for the protection of people sentenced to death, such as the adoption of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.

In 1994, on the initiative of the abolitionist organisation Hands off Cain and the Italian Radical Party, Italy presented, for the first time in the history of the United Nations, a resolution to the UNGA for a global moratorium on executions. The resolution failed by 8 votes to be adopted.

In 1997, Italy presented the resolution on a global moratorium to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, who approved it with 27 votes for, 11 against, 14 abstentions and 1 absent.

In 1999, a second attempt to get a resolution calling for a global moratorium adopted by the UNGA failed.

On 19th December 2006, 95 states signed or supported a statement presented at the 61st session of the UNGA, calling upon *"all states that still maintain the death penalty to abolish it completely and, in the meantime, to establish a moratorium on executions"*⁵⁰.

On 1st February 2007, the European Parliament adopted a resolution by a large majority inviting the Presidency of the EU to act in a timely manner so that the resolution on the global moratorium is presented as quickly as possible to the UNGA. When the German Presidency of the EU caused a delay, the European Parliament repeats its appeal.

On 18th June 2007, the EU Council of Ministers committed to presenting a resolution about a global moratorium on executions at the opening of the 62nd UNGA in September, despite pressure from certain member states who would have preferred to defer the presentation of the resolution until the following months. For this the EU joined forces with states in other regions of the world.

On 26th June 2007, the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly expressed delight in its resolution 1560 at the efforts made by the UNGA toward the adoption

in 2007 of a global moratorium on executions. It declared: *“A moratorium on executions is but one step in the right direction, the ultimate goal remaining the complete abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances.”*

On 15th November 2007, the Third Commission of the General Assembly of the United Nations (tasked with social, humanitarian and cultural matters) adopted for the first time the resolution calling for a moratorium on execution with a view to total abolition of the death penalty. This text was adopted by 99 votes to 52, with 33 abstentions.

On 18th December 2007, the resolution was submitted to the General Assembly for its definitive adoption and the result of this vote was a historic one : a large majority of states from all regions of the world approved this text, in spite of virulent opposition from the retentionist countries.

[CONTINUING THE MOBILIZATION

From now on the challenge for the abolitionist struggle is to arrive at an optimum utilization of this resolution. For the World Coalition it is a question of continuing its committed efforts in lobbying governments and supporting local abolitionist campaigners.

In addition, the World Coalition encourages everyone to take action, and to this effect supports the international event “Cities for life”: every 30th November (the anniversary of the first abolition in Europe, in the Grand Duchy of Tuscany, in 1786), the Sant’Egidio Community and its supporting associations call on towns around the world to light up a symbolic monument by way of protesting against the death penalty and demanding the end of capital executions. From Rome to Abidjan, via Brussels and Santiago in Chile, there are in all over 750 towns, big and small, in which tens of monuments have been lit up to celebrate the 5th edition of “Cities for life – Cities against the death penalty”.

[WORLD DAY 2008

The World Coalition has decided to dedicate the 2008 edition of the World Day against the Death Penalty to fighting the death penalty in **Asia**.

This will fit in with the continuation of actions which will be carried out in China on the occasion of the Olympic Games in Beijing in August 2008. For this event the World Coalition has decided to lead a number of actions denouncing China’s policies with regard to the death penalty.

Also, Asia is the next “great battlefield” in the fight for the global abolition of the death penalty. This region is characterized by a particularly high number of death sentences.

Target countries will be identified: notably the campaign could include South Korea, which has recently become 'abolitionist de facto' since no execution has taken place there for 10 years; Vietnam, which firmly maintains capital punishment and applies it for crimes such as drug trafficking, and Japan, the last industrialized country (with the United States) to apply the death penalty and to shroud executions in state secrecy.

Common themes will be developed: they may include, for example, the moratorium on executions, transparency in the application of the death penalty, punishments incurred for the production and trafficking of drugs and the reduction in the number of offences punishable with the death penalty, etc.

Zoom

The death penalty in Asia

In June 2006, the Philippines became the 88th country to completely abolish capital punishment. This development is very positive for the region of Asia and Oceania, where it is reported that the number of executions is particularly high compared to the rest of the world. As for China, this country alone holds the sad record for the number of executions per year. As for the little state of Singapore - 648km² and 4 452 732 inhabitants – this is the country that executes the greatest number of prisoners proportional to the number of its inhabitants.

In a certain number of countries in the Asia-Pacific region, offences linked to drug legislation carry more death sentences than all the other offences. According to the Anti-Death Penalty Asian Network, sixteen countries in the Asia-Pacific region continue to apply capital punishment for trafficking and possession of drugs⁵¹, sometimes automatically, although nothing indicates that these sentences have resulted in a lowering of the usage or the trafficking of drugs. But judges do not have the option of taking possible mitigating circumstances into account.

In Japan, the death penalty is very popular; it is laid down for 13 offences, but in practice it is applied only for murder. In addition the government maintains the greatest secrecy around its executions, and prisoners may also remain on death row for decades and they are not generally informed of the date of their execution until the day of the hanging; as for members of the family and lawyers, they are not generally told about the execution until after it has happened. In 2007, nine people were hanged and at least 107 people await their sentence on Japan's death row. This year the death sentence has been pronounced in 23 cases: this is the highest number of sentences since 1962.

As for South Korea, it seems to be on the verge of abolishing capital punishment: in fact in 2004, 175 delegates out of the 299 who make up the National Assembly tabled a government bill heading in the direction of abolition. However, to date this has not been followed up.

Abolitionist countries: Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Kirgistan, Macao, Nepal, Philippines, Tajikistan, East Timor, Turkmenistan.

Abolitionist countries de facto: Burma, the Maldives, Sri Lanka

Retentionist countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, North Korea, South Korea, India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam

Source:ADPAN

[**APPENDICES**]

- [1] List of the initiatives of the 2007 World Day
(Non-exhaustive)
- [2] List of the blogs and Internet sites
(Non-exhaustive)
- [3] The text of the UNGA resolution A/RES/62/149
and the detail of the votes
- [4] Press releases and official statements
- [5] Review of the world press (Non-exhaustive)
- [6] List of films and documentaries broadcast
on the occasion of the World Day
(Non-exhaustive)
- [7] Members of the World Coalition
against the Death Penalty

LIST OF THE INITIATIVES TAKEN WORLDWIDE ON THE OCCASION OF THE 2007 WORLD DAY (NON-EXHAUSTIVE)

depending on the information given to the WCADP certain actions are much more detailed than others. Although we have made every effort to retranscribe all the initiatives as faithfully as possible, the list below is non-exhaustive.

NORTH AMERICA

[Canada

ACAT Canada

Signature campaign - 1038 members and sympathizers of ACAT Canada signed the petition in favour of a global moratorium on the death penalty. This action followed on from a previous petition which was addressed to the President of the USA asking him to declare such a moratorium in his country.

Worker-Communist Party of Iran

Exhibition - In a square in Vancouver the organisers set up several signs about the application of the death penalty in Iran. Different speakers took turns to shout out to the crowd about this inhuman practice.

Petition appeal - Passers-by were invited to sign the petition in favour of the moratorium.

[United States

ACAT USA (Tennessee)

Article in the press - Publication of an article against the death penalty in the October edition of the Living City magazine. It appears online on the magazine's website.

Local meetings about the actions in favour of the moratorium both on a global as well as a European level.

Signature campaign

Amnesty International (Illinois)

Action to raise awareness - University of Illinois in Champaign: action to raise awareness about the position of the American government with regard to the death penalty.

Exhibition - On the campus, exhibition of a tombstone and a bed showing the gruesome reality of a lethal injection.

Amanda, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights 'Death Penalty Project', Dorsey & Withney LLP (Minneapolis)

Public conference - Conference open to the public, led by Mr Nicholas Trenticosta, famous defence lawyer for the abolition of the death penalty, on the subject of "emerging trends and themes in the defence of prisoners condemned to death". The famous lawyer talked about his experience with prisoners on death row.

Film show and debate - Screening of the documentary *Judgement at Midnight* followed by "questions and answers" with Nicholas Trenticosta.

Texas Tech University

Debate and screening of a documentary - Discussion on the death penalty with the students of Texas Tech University in the presence of Philip Wischkaemper, Texan lawyer specializing in the death penalty (he defended Odell Barnes), then broadcasting of the documentary *Made in the USA*, telling the story of the execution of Odell Barnes in Texas, on 1st March 2000.

Journey of Hope... from Violence to Healing; Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty,

Series of conferences- "Texas Journey of Hope" from 12th to 18th October 2007 (Houston and Huntsville): series of meetings and conferences in churches, secondary schools, universities and in about twenty civic associations; concert organised to raise funds, in the pres-

ence of Sister Helen Prejean, the singer Nanci Griffith, the folk singer Charly King as well as Bill Pelke and Marietta Jaeger Lane (13th October). Members of murder victims' families, families of prisoners on death row and of executed prisoners, as well as activists against the death penalty were present. The Journey Tour makes it possible for the voices of families and friends of murder victims to be heard, who reject a policy of revenge enforced in the name of the victims, and who fight for the abolition of the death penalty.

Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights Handover of the petition in favour of the moratorium - Appeal for the adoption of the moratorium and the signing of the petition, then handover of the petition to the United Nations.
Information and appeal for action - Information booklets have been made available on the MVFHR website, as well as a model letter to send to governments.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

[**Brazil**
ACAT Brazil

Signature campaign - More than 350 signatures have been collected.

[**Jamaica**
Independent Jamaica Council for Human Rights, the Roman Catholic Church of Jamaica and Amnesty International Jamaica (Kingston)

Articles in the press - Sending of several articles on the death penalty to the Jamaican media, circulation of press releases.

Interviews - Various interviews have been given to radio and television.

Actions in secondary schools and writing competition

Presentation on the death penalty and of the "right to life" in three secondary schools (two in Kingston and one in Montego Bay). Launching of a writing competition for secondary level pupils.

[**Mexico**
Amnesty International Mexico

Information table - Signature campaign for the petition

[**Paraguay**
Amnesty International Paraguay

Exhibition of photos on the death penalty from 5th to 11th October 2007.

Film show and debate with school children.

Sending of letters - Depositing of letters with the representatives of Guatemala and Peru in Paraguay, asking them to vote in favour of the global moratorium at the General Assembly of the United Nations.

[**Peru**
Amnesty International Peru

Living exposition - "Ironic" show offering for sale to the public, as well as to the government, the principal methods of execution: the electric chair, hanging, decapitation, stoning and firing squad. This presentation was accompanied by a speech given by a famous Peruvian actor. Other actions took place in different towns in the country (Cusco, Arequipa, Huancavelica...).

[**Puerto Rico**
Puerto Rican Coalition against the Death Penalty and the Ad-hoc Committee Against the Death Penalty of the Puerto Rican Bar Association.

Book presentation - Presentation of the book *Los que murieron en la Horca (Those who died by hanging)* telling the story of people hanged in Puerto Rico until 1927.

Exhibition: Escuela de Artes Plásticas in Old San Juan - Exhibition presenting the posters of the 3rd World Congress against the Death Penalty in Paris as well as local works of art.

Press conference - Co-organisation of the press conference initiated by the World Coalition against the Death Penalty on the occasion of the World Day.

NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

[**Jordan**

Penal Reform International (PRI) - Jordan

Conference - Conference celebrating the World Day against the Death Penalty, led by the regional director of PRI, about the initiatives taken throughout the world and the appeal to support the adoption of the resolution on the moratorium by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Interview with the regional director of PRI on the Arab station of the BBC channel, tackling the subject of the death penalty in relation to the positive Arab law and Sharia. Launching of an appeal to support the adoption of the resolution on the moratorium by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

PRI & Amman Center for Human Rights Studies

Publication of the book "Studies on the death penalty and the right to life in the Arab world" by PRI and the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies. The book consists of 18 studies on the situation regarding the death penalty in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, the Yemen, the Lebanon etc.

[**Lebanon**

Amnesty International Liban and the ISSSED

Conference at the law faculty in Beirut on the theme of the death penalty in the presence of professors, students, legal experts and key international figures.

[**Morocco**

Moroccan Observatory of Prisons

Letter to the King - Letter addressed to the King on the subject of the death penalty.

[**Palestinian Autonomous Territories**

Palestinian Coalition against the Death Penalty (Ramallah)

Televised conference - Televised conference underlining the position of the Palestinian Coalition towards abolition.

Signature campaign

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights

Lobbying - Lobbying of the local authorities for the definitive abolition of the death penalty and the reconsideration of the cases of people condemned to death.

Workshops and educational courses on the death penalty

Symposium open to the public and led by several organisations working on human rights.

Distribution of T-shirts and posters; raising the awareness of the general public

[**Yemen**

Yemeni Coalition against the Death Penalty

Public declaration - Declaration by the Yemeni Coalition against the Death Penalty and appeal to the government to reduce the scope of its application.

Petition campaign for three Yemenis condemned to death.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

[**Benin**

ACAT Benin

ACAT-Benin launched a series of initiatives which took place over about a fortnight.

1st prayer vigil followed by a mass

Interviews with prisoners condemned to death

Pleas - Making a plea to the national authorities and government representatives about the death penalty to get them to declare themselves in favour of the suppression of the death penalty as part of the work on the new criminal procedure code. The plea was also about the vote on the resolution by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Peaceful awareness-raising march

Radio broadcast on the global moratorium on executions and on the campaign launched by the World Coalition.

Conferences/Debates in junior and secondary schools and university campuses around the theme "The maintenance of the death penalty

in the legislation of Benin, to what end?"

Ceremony to close the programme of activities

Prayer vigil followed by a mass to close the programme of actions.

Signature campaign 111 signatures were collected.

Amnesty International Benin

Press release

Immaculate Conception College Benin

Interviews with the President of ICC Benin (radio and television) on the abolition of the death penalty, calling for Benin's support at the vote by the General Assembly of the United Nations on the resolution on the global moratorium.

[**Burkina Faso**

ACAT Burkina Faso

Pleas to the local authorities - Lobbying for Burkina Faso to vote in favour of the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

[**Burundi**

Burundi Human Rights League (ITEKA)

Declaration against the death penalty - Appeal to adopt the government bill dealing with the abolition of the death penalty.

ACAT Burundi

Pleas to the local authorities - Lobbying for Burundi to vote in favour of the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

[**Cameroon**

ACAT Bamenda Cameroon

Radio broadcast on the death penalty.

ACAT Kumbo

Signature campaign

[**Central African Republic**

ACAT CAR

Article on the World Day in the *Le Confident* newspaper, appealing to the government to respect its international commitments regarding human rights and to ratify Protocol 2 of the ICCPR.

Pleas to the local authorities - Pleas to the government to get the CAR to vote in favour

of the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Appeals to key figures - Requests made to Bishop Monsignor Marini Bodho, legal representative of the Church of Christ in Congo, and to M. Fernando, representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the DRC, to ask them to get involved in the abolitionist struggle and to participate in diverse activities, notably the World Day.

[**Congo Brazzaville**

Amnesty International Congo Brazzaville and the Mary Robinson Centre

Conferences entitled: "The United Nations conventions and the states"; "Why abolish the death penalty?" and "The support of the Congolese Government for the Mary Robinson International Centre".

[**Democratic Republic of Congo Kinshasa**

Committee of Human Rights Observers (CODHO) - Kinshasa

Mass march - "Mass march for peace and support for the global moratorium against the death penalty" on Avenue Victoire in the commune of Kalamu/ Kinshasa.

Increasing public awareness - Campaign to raise national awareness on the question of the death penalty and appeal to sign the petition on the global moratorium on executions, through the internet, banners, radio and television broadcasts.

Sending of letters to the authorities - Letters addressed to the central authorities in Kinshasa: the President of the Republic, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Human Rights, with a view to obtain their support for the vote on the moratorium.

Signature campaign

Press conference - Press conference on the moratorium on executions.

Pax Christi Uvira

Actions to raise awareness - Raising the awareness of young secondary school children

on the practice of the death penalty. Display of banners and posters of the 2007 World Day.

Conference - Hosting of a conference about the Catholic church's position on the death penalty and lynching.

ACAT Kinshasa

Signature campaign 287 signatures were collected.

Great Lakes Coalition against the Death Penalty

Setting up of the Great Lakes Coalition against the Death Penalty following a workshop bringing together representatives of human rights NGO's from Burundi, Rwanda, the DRC and Uganda.

Culture for Peace and Justice

Participation at the press conference

Co-organisation of the regional workshop of the countries in the Great Lakes region

Hosting and organisation, with the Congolese Coalition, of a workshop on the theme "The death penalty in the Great Lakes region of Africa: actors, arguments and perspectives".

Visit to prisoners under sentence of death

A delegation from the Congolese and World Coalitions went to the Kinshasa Penitentiary and Re-education Centre to get an insight into the prison life of those sentenced to death in this prison, and to bring them moral and material comfort.

Communication to the lawyers of Kinshasa

(09/10/07) - Appearance by the President of the CPJ at the General Assembly of lawyers of the Kinshasa /Gombe Bar, on the subject of "Role of the Congolese lawyer in the fight against the death penalty". Two objectives: appeal to the lawyers to plead the unconstitutionality of the death penalty and to ask the Bar to entrust the cases of those people likely to be sentenced to death to the most experienced lawyers.

National workshop for reflection - Civil magistrates and judge advocates, lawyers and representatives of national and international NGO's came together for a seminar around the theme "Strategies and perspectives against the death penalty in the DRC". The conclusions from this

workshop were handed over to the Reform Committee for Congolese Law to serve as a basis for the draft reform of the penal code which will be proposed to the Congolese government.

Televised broadcasts (3)

TRG@: Mr Liévin Ngondji (barrister) was a guest on the television news at 7pm on 10/10 (explanation of the position of the Congolese Coalition regarding the death penalty)

Congo Web TV: Mr Liévin Ngondji (barrister) was a guest on the television news at 7pm on 11/10 to talk about the death penalty and the World Day. Africa TV: Mr Lunda (barrister) of the CPJ appeared on the television news on 12/10 to explain the activities of the Congolese Coalition in favour of abolition.

Pleas to the authorities to push the DRC to vote in favour of the resolution at the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Sud Kivu

ACAT Sud Kivu

Signature campaign - Campaign in the main thoroughfares and the universities of the town of BUKAVU and in associations for the defence of human rights and public institutions. These actions resulted in the collection of 151 signatures on the petition in favour of the moratorium on capital executions.

Radio broadcast Radio broadcast (Radio Maendeleo) on the occasion of the World Day against the Death Penalty.

Paper - Le president of ACAT Sud Kivu presented a paper entitled "The death penalty, an assault on the right to life" to members of ACAT Sud Kivu, associations for the promotion and the defence of human rights, journalists from the local press and individuals with an interest in this question. After a "world tour of the death penalty", the President focussed on his intervention in the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo, emphasizing that Congolese legislature should expressly abolish the death penalty from the punishments laid down in the penal code, and urging the authorities to ratify the Second Optional Protocol of

the ICCPR.

Press release - Circulation of the press release from FIACAT.

Congolese network of abolitionists against the death penalty in the DRC - RADHOMA

Conferences/debates and radio broadcast
Display of banners to raise the awareness of communities

Press conferences

Action to provide information

Distribution of leaflets and publication of the report on the monitoring of the application of the death penalty in the DRC by civil courts and court-martials.

North Kivu

Action to Promote and Defend Disadvantaged People's Rights (APRODEPED)

Press conference - Public conference for local, national and international press, lay persons and members of national and international organisations.

[**Ghana**

ACAT Ghana

Conference on the theme "The death penalty is always a mistake".

Signature campaign

86 signatures were collected.

[**Guinea**

The Airwaves of Guinea

Internet campaign - On the Internet site of the on-line newspaper "The Airwaves of Guinea", posting of the World Coalition logo and creation of a link to the petition.

[**Ivory Coast**

Amnesty International Ivory Coast

Signature campaign

ACAT Ivory Coast

Signature campaign 50 signatures were collected.

[**Madagascar**

ACAT Madagascar

Pleas to the local authorities - Lobbying the authorities to get Madagascar to vote in favour of the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, which they did on 18th December.

Signature campaign 96 signatures were collected.

[**Mali**

Amnesty International Mali

Press release - Circulation of the international press release from Amnesty International.

Interview on the "Africable" television channel.

ACAT Mali

Pleas to the local authorities - Pleas to get Mali to vote in favour of the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, which they did on 18th December.

[**Nigeria**

Institute for Planetary Synthesis

Interview with Olawle Fapohunda, a Nigerian lawyer specializing in human rights, member of the NGO "Legal Resource Consortium" (legal assistance to prisoners).

[**Senegal**

ACAT Senegal

Pleas to the local authorities - Pleas to get Senegal to vote in favour of the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations (it was absent for the vote on 18th December).

[**Sierra Leone**

Amnesty International Sierra Leone

Interviews given on the four main radio stations in the city calling on the new government to consider a moratorium on executions.

[**South Africa**

Johannesburg Attorney Association

Pleas - The association of Johannesburg lawyers urged the South African government to vote in favour of the resolution.

[**Togo**

African Forum against the Death Penalty

Film show and debate - Screening of a film ("An Ideal Culprit" by François-Xavier Lestrade) followed by a debate about the death penalty and the strategies to be put in place by the abolitionists for the abolition of capital punishment.

Lobbying Letters - Sending of letters to the main political parties involved in campaigning for the parliamentary elections, urging them to take measures towards the abolition of the death penalty once in office.

Awareness-raising - "Door to door" operation in 3 districts to raise awareness through individual conversations about the necessity of abolition (fact: the majority of the population are unaware that capital punishment is a part of Togolese legislation).

Amnesty International Togo

Lobbying Letters - Sending of letters to the national authorities asking for support for the global moratorium on executions.

Actions to raise awareness - Broadcasting of interviews on Nostalgie and Victoire radios and press release.

Signature Campaign - Petition against the death penalty in Togolese legislation.

Banners - Display of two banners at the headquarters of Amnesty International Togo and in the city centre.

Distribution of information leaflets on the death penalty

ACAT Togo

Signature campaign for the international petition 114 signatures were collected.

[**Uganda**

FHRI (Foundation for Human Rights Initiative)

Publication of an article - The FHRI published an article in the Daily Monitor Newspaper, one of the principal Ugandan newspapers.

ASIA/PACIFIC

[**Australia**

Australians Against Capital Punishment, Just Peace and Amnesty International

Australia

March - Candlelit march in Brisbane

Forum against the continued use of the death penalty. Concert by Margret RoadKnight followed by several speeches given by lawyers and families of Australians sentenced to death in other countries.

Broadcasting of the film of the forum on Youtube

Appeal for statements

The opponents of capital punishment are urged to write to the Prime Minister, to the opposition parties and to the media to voice their opinions on this subject.

Father Frank Brennan

Conference - Father Franck Brennan, priest and lawyer, is also professor of law at the Australian Catholic University. On the occasion of the World Day, he gave a speech against the death penalty.

[**India - Bangalore**

South India Cell for Human Rights

Education and Monitoring (SICHREM)

Candlelight vigil urging the government to abolish the death penalty and to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

Amnesty International India

Open letter signed by key public figures, published in some magazines.

Call for mobilization - Mobilization of key political figures (Prime Minister, President, former chairperson of the National Commission for Women).

Appeal for mobilization - Sending of the Amnesty International report "Global moratorium on executions now" to organisations known to be anti-death penalty. Sharing of campaign materials with them and asking them to join the campaign.

Postcard campaign - Using the photos of about fifty key public figures and putting them

on postcards, posters etc.

Lobbying letter – Letters sent to members of parliament.

Lobbying the authorities – Meeting with the Chairman of the Parliamentary standing committee on Human Rights and open letter to the Prime Minister.

Press conference

Signature campaign via Internet and SMS.

[**Japan**

Amnesty International Japan and partners

Appeal - A coalition of 49 Japanese human rights organisations, including the Japanese branch of Amnesty International, voiced a strong protest calling on the Minister of Justice Hatoyama to withdraw his appeal to carry out executions “automatically” six months after sentencing, without waiting for the agreement of the Minister of Justice.

Demonstration - 200 people demonstrated against the death penalty.

[**Mongolia**

Amnesty International Mongolia

Signature campaign - Translation of the petition into Mongolian and collection of signatures on the World Coalition website and from the public.

Public awareness campaign - Public awareness actions carried out by the Youth Group.

Broadcasting of a documentary - Television broadcasting of a documentary produced by Amnesty International Mongolia.

[**Nepal**

Amnesty International Nepal

Demonstration calling for the abolition of the death penalty in China.

[**New Zealand**

Amnesty International New Zealand

Press conference co-hosted by the government and Amnesty International to announce the global moratorium on the death penalty. A board showing the chronology of abolition worldwide, from

1863 to the present day, was put on display. The Prime Minister announced the intention of the New Zealand government to play a part in drafting the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations. This event was very successful: six delegates were present, as well as high-ranking officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, numerous activists and a large media contingent.

[**The Philippines**

Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), Save Marilou Ronario Movement, Migrant International, GABRIELA, Kenneth Causon Movement, Baranguay Holy Spirit

Celebration of the National Prisons Awareness Week and awareness-raising about prisons

From 22nd to 28th October, awareness-raising actions and provision of information for the National Prisons and Correctional Consciousness Week.

Signature campaign - Campaign for the petition for a global moratorium on executions

Protest meeting - The Organisation of Mistreated Migrant Filipino Workers (OFWs) and their friends and families met with other associations and other concerned individuals to intensify the campaign to save Marilou Ranario and all the migrant Filipino workers held on death row worldwide. Subsequently, the death sentence of Marilou Ranario was commuted to life imprisonment.

[**South Korea**

Amnesty International South Korea

Film festival on the subject of the death penalty followed by public debates and a special event for the media.

[**Sri Lanka**

Amnesty International Sri Lanka

Radio interviews - Ban by the authorities on the organisation of a rally. Four interviews were given on the four main radio stations, calling on the government to seriously consider the question of a moratorium.

[**Taiwan**

Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty (TAEDP)

Film festival- During the 2nd Murder by Numbers Film Festival in Taipei (from 12th to 14th October) and Kaohsiung (19th to 21st October), the TAEDP showed films on the theme of the death penalty and then held forums.

Signature campaign - Translation of the petition into Chinese and collection of signatures

Press conference in Taipei on the subject of the campaign for a global moratorium on executions.

EUROPE

European Union and Council of Europe

Creation of the European Day against the Death Penalty

[**Austria**

Amnesty International Austria and the Viennese Theatre

Dead Man Walking at the opera - Adaptation of the book by Sister H el ene Pr ejean *Dead Man Walking* at the Viennese Opera.

The last production took place on 10th October at the Viennese Theatre.

A press conference was held in September to give information on the next World Day and the opera evening.

Amnesty International Austria

Workshops - Since May, several schools have participated in workshops on the death penalty. On the occasion of the World Day, the results of their work were presented at a debate between the pupils and two former prisoners who had been sentenced to death (Peter Pringle et Sonia Jacobs).

[**Belgium**

CFTJ and House of Laicity

Conference on the death penalty at the Braine l'Alleud cultural centre.

French-speaking Brussels Bar

Plea - Sending of a letter to the permanent Belgian delegation at the United Nations and to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, asking them to support the resolution on the global moratorium.

Liberal Students' Federations

Poster campaign - Poster campaign on most of the student campuses in French-speaking Belgium.

Press release calling for the tabling of a proposed resolution with the aim of establishing Belgium's commitment in favour of the global abolition of the death penalty by the official recognition of the date of 10th October as the Day against the Death Penalty.

ACAT French-speaking Belgium

Signature campaign - Campaign to collect signatures for the petition on the global moratorium. More than 900 signatures collected.

Amnesty International

French-speaking Belgium

Demonstration - 200 people respected a minute's silence in memory of the victims of execution in Iran and throughout the world.

Conference Debate - The Benenson Society of Amnesty International Belgium organised a conference of the theme "China and the death penalty", in the presence of Marie Holzman, renowned sinologist.

Radio broadcast - Broadcast on radio RTBF: three hours of programmes and interview on the death penalty.

Amnesty International French-speaking

Belgium and Notre Dame de la Paix

Faculty of Law

Debate - The Notre Dame de la Paix Law Faculty organised a debate about the death penalty with Christian Panier, judge in Namur and Michel Graindorge, lawyer, as participants. The themes covered were: "Why the death penalty?" and "How to bring about a decline in this practice that is still widespread in the world?"

[**Czech Republic**

Amnesty International Czech Republic

Lobbying letter asking for support for the vote

on the resolution for a moratorium on executions at the General Assembly of the United Nations. Letter sent to the Moroccan representatives.

[**Denmark**

Amnesty International Denmark Copenhagen, Aarhus, Odense and 35 other towns

Living exposition - Living exposition "Imagine that this is your last meal. Say stop to the death penalty ! " The principle of this exposition was to invite the public to reflect on what the last meal of a condemned prisoner might be like. In three big towns (Copenhagen, Aarhus and Odense) a prison kitchen was reconstructed in a park. People pretending to be prisoners were sitting in front of their last meal, by the side of people pretending to be prison guards who were getting signatures for the petition, which was printed on plates. Appeals to sign the global petition were printed on original props: "last meal" cans and information printed on paper napkins were distributed in public places, schools.... Several restaurants (15 in Aarhus and 25 in Copenhagen) served a "last meal" as their dish of the day or distributed paper napkins with information about the death penalty and the petition.

Press release

Internet site

The campaign continued after 10th October until 21st October, to collect the maximum number of signatures (in the street, during the Night of Culture). Restaurants and take-away stands continued to distribute table napkins, disposable plates and table mats on which were printed information about the death penalty and the petition appeal. In total, 14 454 signatures were collected.

[**Finland**

Amnesty International Finland

Lobbying Letter to support the vote on the resolution for a moratorium on executions at the General Assembly of the United Nations. Letter sent to the Finnish authorities.

[**France**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAE)

Press release - The MAE published a **press release** on 23rd October 2007, to serve as a reminder of France's commitment to the global abolition of the death penalty.

Deposit of the instruments of ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) by Ambassador Bruno Grain, permanent representative at the Council of Europe, on the occasion of the European Day against the Death Penalty. In August 2007 the Parliament adopted a law authorising the adoption of the Second Protocol. An implementing order on 10th January 2008 carries publication of this act, and fixes the date of its coming into operation as 2nd January 2008.

Fédération Syndicale Unitaire

Signature appeal - Appeal for signature of the petition on-line on the World Coalition website.

Circulation of the petition - Appeal for circulation of the petition to the national trade unions, regional branches, regional press and on the Internet websites.

Publication of an article - Publication of a short item in the SNUIPP magazine *Fenêtre sur cour*.

ACAT France

Lobbying letters - Sending of letters to 12 governments (Guinea, the Comoro Islands, Eritrea, Morocco, the DRC, the Lebanon, Guatemala, Sri Lanka, Zambia, Bolivia, Sierra Leone, Cambodia), to ask them to vote in favour of the resolution on the global moratorium on executions or, failing that, to abstain.

Appeal for initiatives - The monthly appeal of number 278 (September/October) of the Christian human rights monthly, ACAT's magazine (with a circulation of 40 000 copies) deals with the global moratorium on executions and calls for action to be taken by everyone, in particular by signing a letter addressed to the Tanzanian authorities. This appeal was obviously heard since Tanzania, a retentionist country, abstained in the vote of 18th December.

**ACAT/Amnesty International
(local branches)**

Working together to mobilize people, particularly young people, on the question of the death penalty. Several initiatives, some joint, others individual, took place throughout France. Overall more than 40000 signatures were collected for the petition.

Abbayes Ste Marie -

ACAT Abbayes Ste Marie

Presentation of the World Day - Article presenting the World Day in two parish bulletins.

Signature campaign

Agen - ACAT Agen, Amnesty International

Agen – Villeneuve Group 194

Concert by Philippe Granger with a press stand at the entrance.

Press stand - Running of a press stand in the street: attracting the attention of passers-by and signature of the petition.

Action to provide information - Participation by associations in the World Day, distribution of leaflets and signature appeal.

Press Conferences with local and regional newspapers. Publication of a press release. Appearances on two local radio stations.

Alençon - ACAT Alençon, Amnesty International

Signature campaign - Running of a stand to collect signatures at the Book Fair held by Amnesty International.

Awareness-raising - Presentation of ACAT in a Catholic college and raising the awareness of groups of young people about the death penalty.

Alès - ACAT Alès, Amnesty International

Signature campaign - Appeal to sign the petition during the Human Rights café at the Café Gambrines which was the occasion to present the situation concerning the death penalty in China, Japan, the USA, Africa, Iran and Tibet and to discuss it; the World Coalition petition was presented for signature.

Distribution of leaflets targetted at young people (secondary schools, churches)

**Alfortville - Amnesty International
Alfortville**

Concerts - Festive evening at the Cultural Centre in Alfortville with the Polyphonies Corses, the singer and poet Pierre Meige and the vocal group Okéko with some refreshments available.

Amiens - ACAT Amiens and Amnesty International

Signature campaign - Appeal to sign the petition on the global moratorium on executions.

Signature campaign at the end of masses and church services.

Mail campaign to let people know of the existence of the petition on the internet.

Participation in the demonstration at the place de la Bastille, in Paris.

Amiens - ACAT Lot et Garonne and Amnesty International

Press conference and press stand on 13th October with appeal to sign the petition on the global moratorium on executions.

Auxerre - Amnesty International Group 329

Action to provide information - Information stand in the town centre.

Avignon - ACAT Avignon

Awareness-raising actions

Appearances in parishes and on the radio
Speech at the church service on 7th October.

Signature appeal Appeal to sign the World Coalition petition and distribution of leaflets.

Bar le Duc - ACAT Bar le Duc

Signature campaign at the end of the celebrations of 7th and 14th October 2007.

Releasing of balloons by children

Awareness-raising meeting

Meeting with the young people of the chaplaincy.

**Blois - ACAT Blois, Amnesty International
Blésois**

Signature campaign

Bordeaux - ACAT Bordeaux

Awareness-raising stand - On the occasion of the Festival of Associations organised by the city of Bordeaux, a specific ACAT "death penalty" stand was set up: poster board, leaflets, collection of signatures for the petition (90).

Bourges - ACAT Bourges and Amnesty International

Awareness-raising stand - Stand with distribution of leaflets, a quiz and petitions and letters to sign. Entertainment from the Djembé players and the Hip hop dancers.

Charleville Mézières - ACAT Charleville Mézières

Signature campaign from 8th to 14th October 2007.

Chartres - ACAT Chartres and Amnesty International

Awareness-raising campaign Information stand in the town centre.

Signature campaign

Colomiers – Parish of Colomiers, ACAT
Signature appeal

Colmar - ACAT Colmar

Signature campaign - On 13th/14th and 20th/21st October 2007: Signature campaign at the end of church services and door to door.

Compiègne - ACAT Compiègne

Signature campaign in the Christian parishes

Erstein – ACAT Sées

Displaying of posters and signature appeal
Displaying of posters of the World Day in two Protestant parishes and signature campaign, over two weeks.

Épernay - ACAT Épernay

Appeal for prayer- Global prayer.

Signature campaign - Signing of the petition at all Catholic masses in the parish and at Protestant services.

Fensch - ACAT Fensch

Book Fair on 6th and 7th October 2007 with display of posters of the World Day.

Signature campaign

Debate

Fréjus - ACAT Fréjus, Amnesty International and Frejus's country dance group

Signature campaign and awareness-raising with the "Country" dancers.

Awareness-raising actions with the pupils from Years 5 and 6; game about human rights and the rights of the child.

Franconville St Leu – Amnesty International and ACAT Franconville St Leu

Information campaign - Presentation on the World Day against the Death Penalty and the position of the church in France.

Signature campaign at religious services.

Forcalquier - ACAT Forcalquier
Signature campaign

Gap - ACAT Gap, Amnesty International

Signature campaign - Running of a stand alongside A1 in the market square, to inform and raise the awareness of the general public; signature campaign.

Gironde – Secteur des Graves - ACAT Secteur des Graves

Signature campaign at the Georges Brassens Cultural Centre in Léognan.

Issy les Moulineaux - ACAT Issy les

Moulineaux – Vanves

Poster and signature campaign

Jardin - ACAT Vienne – Isère

Information campaign - Distribution of booklets of ACAT presentations and leaflets.

Signature campaign

La Salle – St Jean Gaillard - ACAT La Salle – St Jean Gaillard

Signature campaign in the parishes.

Le Chambon/Lignon -

ACAT Le Chambon/Lignon

Signature campaign - Signing of petitions, posters at the office of tourism, at the local library and in a shop.

Lille - ACAT Villeneuve d'Ascq - Lille

Métropole, Amnesty International

Sit-in in front of the Polish embassy, following the Polish veto of the establishment of a European Day against the Death Penalty.

Action to provide information - Forum for solidarity at the Catholic faculty of Lille.

Limoges - ACAT Limoges

Radio appearance - Appearance on RCF (presentation of the campaign for the resolution and information about the World Coalition's online petition).

Le Mas d'Azil - ACAT Le Mas d'Azil

Information campaign - Presentation of the

World Day against the Death Penalty.

Signature campaign at the end of mass.

L'Isle-Adam Parmain - ACAT L'Isle Adam - Parmain

Signature campaign in l'Isle Adam, during the Associations' Forum and at the parish's reunion party after the summer; at the Pères Blancs community in Mours and in the parish of Persan.

Lourdes - ACAT Lourdes -Tarbes

Information and signature campaign From 15th September to 25th October: appearance at the Associations' Forum and appeal for signatures. Sending of information and petitions to members and associations. First meeting with the press.

Mâcon - ACAT Mâcon

Radio broadcast Presentation of the campaign on RCF Saône et Loire.

Signature campaign

Marlhes - ACAT Marlhes

Presentation of the World Day against the Death Penalty

Signature campaign

Prayers

Mauléon – ACAT Soule, Catholic Relief of the Atlantic Pyrenees

Signature campaign over 10 days, organised during an exhibition by Catholic Relief. Mention in the local press.

Morlais - ACAT Pays de Morlais, Amnesty International

Signature campaign in the market square and at the end of mass (370 signatures collected).

Press briefing with two local newspapers (Ouest France and le Télégramme)

Radio announcement giving information on the signature campaign and the 2007 World Day (Radio-Rivage)

Nancy - ACAT Nancy, Amnesty International Nancy

Information stand on the World Day against the Death Penalty - Information stand and presentation of the World Day against the Death Penalty and the petition to first year students during a "Human Rights " course.

Nîmes - ACAT, Amnesty International and Mobile Home Theatre

Exhibition and artistic representations - From 8th to 13th October 2007: Exhibition "On the road to global abolition", artistic representation (sculpture, dance etc...) of the death penalty (30 min).

Notre Dame du Cénacle - ACAT Notre Dame du Cénacle – Bon Pasteur

Prayer - Mass prayer

Actions to provide information - Meeting to provide information on the abolition of the death penalty.

Signature campaign

Oloron - ACAT

Signature campaign at the end of religious services.

Orange - ACAT Orange

Signature and information campaign

Prayers, Poster campaign

Pau - ACAT and Amnesty International Pau

Lobbying letters - Sending of letters to the authorities of the seven countries targeted by Amnesty International (Tanzania, Nigeria, Peru, South Korea, Guatemala, India and Morocco).

Signature campaign - Signature table at the Tibetan festival in Pau.

Pays d'Olmes - ACAT Pays d'Olmes

Signature campaign at the end of Catholic mass services, in the large stores, at group meetings and by mail (over 3 weeks).

Plateau de Maïche - ACAT Plateau de Maïche

Signature campaign - Campaign to sign the petition at the Maïche Fair, at the vegetable show, in front of the town hall and at the end of religious services.

Roques - ACAT Roques- Garonne

Signature campaign - Petition campaign carried out in two churches.

Rouen - ACAT Rouen

Signature campaign - Petition campaign for the global moratorium on executions.

Radio broadcast "The rights of the other man" on RCF Rouen.

St Céré/Biars - ACAT St Céré/Biars

Signature campaign at the end of Catholic mass services.

Poster campaign - Announcement of the World Day against the Death Penalty.
Announcement of the World Day in the parish newspaper.

Saintes – Amnesty International Saintes Group 340

Orange march - March against the death penalty and torture.

Signature campaign (75 signatures)

Saint François en Forez - ACAT Forez

Announcement in the diocesan press - Publication of an article in the diocesan journal of Saint-Etienne about the World Day on 10th October.

Signature campaign in 8 places of worship in the parish and around member networks.

Appeal for prayer - A global prayer was said in all the places of worship in the parish.

St Gilles Croix de Vie - Amnesty International – North West Vendée Group and Cinémarine in St Gilles Croix de Vie

Film show and debate - Screening of the Tim Robbins film *Dead Man Walking*, followed by a debate.

Sarlat - ACAT Sarlat and Amnesty International

Newspaper article - Article in the local press announcing the petition.

Saint Nazaire - ACAT St Nazaire

Global prayer

Signature campaign

St Armand - ACAT St Armand – Casne

Signature campaign - The first collection of signatures took place at the end of the Bible meeting with the minister and a priest in charge of the district. The second signature appeal took place at the end of the service on Sunday 7th October.

Saint Lo - ACAT Lower Normandy (St Lô – Manche)

Signature campaign carried out over two weeks in Catholic and Protestant churches, stand in the churches with posters, leaflets ...

Saint Sébastien sur Loire - ACAT Nantes

Signature campaign and information stand
Signature campaign in the market square and in the town hall of St Sébastien-sur-Loire.

Sées - ACAT Sées

Signature campaign

Sélestat - ACAT Sélestat

Signature campaign

Soule - ACAT Soule and Catholic Relief

Signature campaign - Participation in an exhibition by Catholic Relief, signature campaign. Mention in the local press.

Thonon les Bains - ACAT Thonon les Bains

Interviews on local radio and in the “Dauphiné libéré” newspaper.

Signature campaign in three parishes.

Toulouse Centre Saint Jérôme - ACAT

Toulouse

Running of a stand with Amnesty International in the town centre.

Display of posters and awareness-raising in the waiting area of the Utopia cinema.

Signature campaign in the waiting area of the Utopia cinema and amongst the expansive ACAT Toulouse Centre network, from 8th to 23rd October.

Vallée de la Bruche - ACAT Vallée de la Bruche

Appearance in a school - Appearance in six classes of the Louis Arbogast de Mutzig Bas-Rhin school, to talk on the theme of the abolition of the death penalty.

Vendôme - ACAT Vendôme, town, churches, local press

Book exhibition - The local library in Vendôme put up posters and notices and displayed new works on the death penalty.

Running of a stand - Running of an information table with leaflets and petition at the town’s Youth Information Point.

Signature campaign - Campaign for signature of the petition in two churches (Trinité, Madeleine), circulation of leaflets and poster campaign.

Communication of information in the local press (in particular in La Renaissance in the Loir et Cher)

Vichy - ACAT Vichy

Signature campaign - Announcement of the signature campaign in the parish at several

Catholic masses and at the Protestant church; private initiatives.

L'Hay-les-roses - FIDH and LDH

Performance about the death penalty - Theatre performance about the death penalty, the proceeds of which will go to American prisoners under sentence of death.

Lons-le-Saunier – Studio ACF – Jura Lons-le-Saunier

Radio broadcast - Twelve minute radio broadcast on local radio as part of the "Solidarity" programme: "World Day against the Death Penalty, presented by ACAT", on 9th and 13th October.

Lyon - ACAT Lyon, Amnesty International, Hands United for Justice Association, Human Rights League

Film show and debate evening – Screening of the film "Made in the USA" (VOST) followed by a debate against the death penalty.

Awareness-raising - Information stand in a marquee on Place Carnot

Lobbying letters

Montpellier – Collective against

Homophobia and for Equality of Rights

Awareness-raising action - Stand to raise the awareness of the general public and signature campaign for the petition. Reminder of the reality of executions worldwide through the use of two symbolic gallows, facts and figures and photos.

Signature campaign

Montpellier - Radio Rig

Broadcast of an interview - Broadcast on an associative Bordeaux radio station of the interview with Emilie Artaud, member of the association "Struggle for Justice".

Montpellier - Radio BLV

Radio programme - As it does every year, radio BLV broadcast a 15-minute report on the death penalty twice.

Montpellier – Struggle for Justice (LPJ)

Awareness-raising actions - Steps taken to get multimedia libraries to exhibit for one week works on the subject of the death penalty, and to make posters and leaflets available to readers. Raising the awareness of bookshops inter-

ested in the subject, and also getting them to set up tables of relevant works. Participation in the actions led by the large organisations.

Paris - Maison Suisse – international university halls of residence, Paris

Exhibition and debate evening - Exhibition "On the road to global abolition" and debate evenings

Paris – Paris Bar

Lobbying letter - Sending of letters to 69 governments (notably Russia, Pakistan, China, Vietnam, and to the African states) and to foreign bar associations asking them to support the resolution for a global moratorium on executions when it is voted on at the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Signature campaign

Announcement of the World Day against the Death Penalty and presentation of the petition on the global moratorium in the bulletin of the Paris Bar.

Publications - Publication of several articles in the monthly magazine *Le Barreau autour du Monde*, in the October and December 2007 editions.

Paris – The National Collective in Solidarity with Mumia Abu-Jamal and the "Together we will save Mumia" Collective

Communiqué on the website - Communiqué on the World Day against the Death Penalty and the moratorium.

Film screening and debate - Screening of the film *Frances Newton's Last Words* by Thomas Geifer, at the La Clef Cultural Centre (Paris): a deeply moving testimony from this poor, black woman, aged 40, who was sentenced for the murders of her husband and two children, and executed in Texas in September 2005 after 18 years in prison. Frances Newton always proclaimed her innocence.

The film provoked an impassioned debate.

Gathering - As on every Wednesday, a crowd gathered outside the American Consulate in Paris between 6pm and 8pm. The appeal was broadened to include all those communes who have made Mumia a freeman (Bagneux, Clermont-Ferrand, Malakoff...)

Paris – Action by Christians against Torture (ACAT), Together against the Death Penalty (ECPM), International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), Human Rights League (LDH), Reporters without Borders (RSF), Iranian League for the Defence of Human Rights, World Coalition against the Death Penalty

Silent demonstration against the death penalty

At the Place de la Bastille, cranes, used as gallows in Iran, were set up. Dummies hanging from the cranes swayed before the eyes of a crowd of demonstrators dressed in black. Initiated to protest against the upsurge in executions in Iran (more than 244 executions to the end of October), this scene was very shocking and was widely reported on by the media.

Tours - IUT North Tours

Exhibition “on the road to global abolition”.

Vincennes – Vincennes Library

Exhibition of book - The library in Vincennes set up a literature table exhibiting books about the death penalty.

Vincennes - FIACAT

Lobbying letters - Sending of letters to six governments (Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, Madagascar, Burundi and the Central African Republic) asking them to support the resolution for a global moratorium on executions when it is voted on by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Vincennes - FIDH

Lobbying letters - Sending of letters to 17 governments (Laos, Chad, Burundi, Morocco etc.), asking them to support the resolution for a global moratorium on executions when it is voted on by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

[**Germany**

ACAT Germany

Postcard action - Distribution throughout the month of October of postcards printed with the text of the general petition. 518 signatures were collected.

Amnesty International Germany

Awareness-raising actio - 192 chairs were set out in front of the Brandenburg Gate, a symbolic area in Berlin, representing the 192 member states of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Each chair showed the current status of the death penalty in the domestic law of the country in question.

An enormous ballot paper in favour of the moratorium was signed by the pupils of a school in Berlin, the musician Max Herre and the director of Amnesty International Germany.

German Bar – Deutscher Anwaltverein

Plea - The Berlin Bar sent a letter to Angela Merkel and to the Minister of Justice, Brigitte Zypries, asking the government to support the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

[**Great Britain**

Death Watch International

Official launch - Launch of this organisation which brings together anti-death penalty campaigns, and of its Internet website. A reception took place in London, in the presence of Nick Yarris, former prisoner under sentence of death.

Amnesty International, International Secretariat

Round table discussion - Organisation of round table discussions at the United Nations (Economic and Social Council; NYC), during the course of which three former prisoners under sentence of death urged the member states of the United Nations to lend their support to the draft moratorium on executions. The three men, from Japan, Uganda and the United States respectively, went back over their personal history: they described the iniquitous proceedings, the mistakes and the poor running of the judiciary, which resulted in them spending 54 years on death row between the three of them for crimes that they did not commit.

Amnesty International Great Britain

Candlelight vigils - Each local group in Amnesty International Great Britain organised

a vigil with 22 candles representing the number of prisoners under sentence of death who are executed each day in China according to estimates by AI. AI called on China to be more transparent about its executions (and in particular the publication of real official statistics) as well as to reduce the scope of application of the death penalty.

Penal Reform International

Publication of the book "Studies on Death Penalty and the Right to Life in the Arab World" by PRI and the Amman Center for Human Rights Studies. The book consists of 18 studies about the situation with the death penalty in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, the Yemen, the Lebanon etc.

REPRIEVE

Press release

[**Iceland**

Amnesty International Iceland

Lobbying letter for support of the vote on the resolution for the moratorium on executions at the General Assembly of the United Nations. Letter sent to the Icelandic authorities.

[**Italy**

City of Venice

Press release - Posting of a press release announcing the World Day against the Death Penalty on-line on the welcome page of the official website of the Municipality of Venice.

Poster campaign - The city hall of the City of Venice put up posters of the World Day on its walls. Poster campaign in Mestre.

Town of Reggio Emilia

Poster campaign

Press release

Awareness-raising actions

Translation of leaflets and posters of the World Day into Italian and circulation in schools, libraries etc.

Signature campaign.

Letters sent by the Mayor of Reggio Emilia to associated towns to obtain their support for the moratorium.

Tuscany Region and the Sant'Egidio Community

Signature campaign

Broadcasting of a documentary "Non vale la pena" ("it's not worth it").

Round table discussions with the representatives of the Tuscany region, the Sant'Egidio community, an Afghan journalist (human rights activist) and a young Chinese priest.

Paul Rougeau Committee

Signature appeal - Circulation of the petition in favour of the moratorium to members and relations..

ACAT Italy

Signature campaign: 1370 signatures collected.

[**Luxembourg**

ACAT Luxembourg

Signature campaign - Appeal and sending of petition to churches (160 signatures).

Lobbying letter - Monthly appeal sent to members and sympathizers: sending of letters to the Luxembourg government asking them to support the adoption of the resolution on the moratorium at the 62nd session of the United Nations.

Radio broadcast - ACAT Luxembourg spoke on a sociocultural radio station to give information about the World Day and to appeal for signatures on the petition.

Press release - Publication by several daily newspapers in Luxembourg.

Luxembourg Bar

Plea to the government to support the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

[**The Netherlands**

Dutch Bar & Rotterdam Bar Association

Meeting with the Minister of Justice to discuss the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

[**Norway**

Defend International

Appeal for mobilization - In favour of abolition and the adoption of the global moratorium on the death penalty, in favour of two Iranian journalists sentenced to death (Hasanpoor and Butimar).

[**Portugal**

European Commission and Council of Europe

European Commission and Council of Europe Conference "Europe against the death penalty": European Commission Conference in association with the Council of Europe, on 9th October 2007 in Lisbon, announcing the European Day against the Death Penalty.

Portuguese Bar

Lobbying letter - Letter sent to the Portuguese Minister for Foreign Affairs asking him to support the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Announcement of the World Day published on the Bar's Internet website.

[**Scotland**

Law Society of Scotland

Plea - The Scottish Bar wrote to different ministers in the British government to get Great Britain to support the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Faculty of Advocates of Scotland

Letter to the Prime Minister - Letter sent to the Prime Minister to get Scotland to support the resolution on the global moratorium when it is voted on.

[**Spain**

ACAT Spain - Barcelona

Ecumenical prayer - Organisation of an ecumenical prayer in a Protestant church in the city of Barcelona.

Signature campaign 3787 signatures were collected.

Amnesty International Spain

Signature campaign

[**Sweden**

Swedish Bar

Plea - The Swedish Bar wrote to the Swedish government asking for support for the resolution when it is voted on at the General Assembly of the United Nations.

[**Switzerland**

Radio Swiss Info, Lifespark

Broadcast of an interview - Radio broadcast of an interview in English (translated into four other languages) on the Swiss Info radio station which broadcasts its programmes internationally. The interview was about the World Day and the work of Lifespark in favour of abolition. The radio station also broadcast general information on this theme and gave relevant Internet links.

Amnesty International Switzerland, Lifespark

Appeal in favour of the moratorium - Appeal to governments around the world to vote in favour of the resolution of the United Nations on the global moratorium.

ACAT Switzerland

Signature campaign 6509 signatures were collected.

BLOGS

This is a non-exhaustive list of bloggers who talked about the 2007 World Day against the Death Penalty, very often appealing for signatures on the international on-line petition and passing on information about the death penalty worldwide and the appeal for initiatives launched by the World Coalition.

- **Aef (Association des Éditeurs Francophones) de Dmoz Blog:**
<http://www.aef-dmoz.org/blog/journee-mondiale-contre-la-peine-de-mort-2/>
- **Alain Hubler, conseiller communal de Lausanne:**
<http://alainhubler.wordpress.com/2007/10/10/journee-mondiale-contre-la-peine-de-mort/>
- **Amnesty International USA:** <http://blogs.amnestyusa.org/death-penalty/archive/2007/10/10/happy-world-day-against-the-death-penalty.htm>
- **Asia Death Penalty:** <http://asiadeathpenalty.blogspot.com/>
- **Barbara's Journey toward Justice:**
<http://barbarasblogspot.blogspot.com/2007/09/world-day-against-death-penalty-oct10.html>
- **Basta:** <http://20six.fr/basta/cat/199850/0>
- **Beurre ou ordinaire ? Le blog décroissant de Seb31:**
<http://sebos31.over-blog.com/article-12928624.html>
- **Blog Dalloz:** <http://blog.dalloz.fr/blogdalloz/2007/09/18-septembre-le.html>
- **Blog Nouvel Obs:** <http://robocup555.blogs.nouvelobs.com/archive/2007/10/05/peine-de-mort-le-maroc-bon-eleve.html>
- **Blog TV News:** <http://www.leblogtvnews.com/article-12838516.html>
- **Bobard Censored:** <http://newsnoncensures.blogspot.com/2007/10/moratoire-universel-contre-la-peine-de.html>
- **Death Penalty News:** <http://deathpenaltynews.blogspot.com/2007/10/10-octobre-2007-5e-journee-mondiale.html>
- **Derechos:** http://www.humanrightsblog.org/ua/2007/10/world_day_against_the_death_pe.html
- **Désirs d'avenir, Valenciennois:** <http://desirsdavenir-valenciennois.hautetfort.com/archive/2007/10/10/journee-mondiale-contre-la-peine-de-mort.html>
- **Droits de l'Homme et Libertés ; Blog du Secrétariat national aux Droits de l'Homme et aux Libertés du Parti Socialiste:**
<http://libertes.parti-socialiste.fr/2007/10/10/journee-mondiale-contre-la-peine-de-mort/>
- **Entendre...et éventuellement voir:** <http://jeanluc.blog.lemonde.fr/2007/10/06/10-octobre-journee-mondiale-contre-la-peine-de-mort/>
- **Fredoberson:** <http://blog.france2.fr/fredoberson/index.php/2007/10>
- **For Victims, Against the Death Penalty:**
<http://mvfhr.blogspot.com/2007/10/world-day-against-death-penalty.html>
- **Free Lantern:** <http://ali.freelantern.com/2007/10/world-day-against-the-death-penalty.html>
- **Inès workshop:** <http://inesworkshop.blogspot.com/2007/10/world-day-against-death-penalty.html>
- **Journal d'un Secrétaire de Section, David Chizat:**
<http://davidchizat.over-blog.com/article-12906574.html>

- **Ladies Room, le magazine des filles à la page:** <http://ladiesroom.fr/2007/10/18/10-octobre-journee-mondiale-contre-la-peine-de-mort/>
- **La route de Lissa:** <http://laroutedelissa-friends.over-blog.com/>
- **Le blog d'Yvan Lubraneski:** <http://www.yvanlubraneski.fr/archive/2007/10/10/journee-mondiale-contre-la-peine-de-mort.html>
- **Le Blogue de Derfel:** <http://www.derfel.info/48-archive-10-2007.html>
- **Le ^{XXII} siècle sera Utopie ou ne sera pas...:**
<http://blog.autresmondes.eu/post/2007/10/10/Journee-mondiale-contre-la-peine-de-mort>
- **My eyes and thoughts behind camera:**
<http://mebehindcamera.blogspot.com/2007/10/world-day-against-death-penalty.html>
- **Mariam Namazie:**
<http://maryamnamazie.blogspot.com/2007/09/october-10-international-day-against.html>
- **MKNE Political Information:** <http://politsmk.blogspot.com/2007/10/against-executions.html>
- **Modem76, le blog du Mouvement démocrate:** <http://www.modem76.com/article-12960711.html>
- **Moi, dans tous mes états:** <http://moidanstousmesetats.blogspot.com/archive/2007/10/05/tous-pour-l-abolition-de-la-peine-de-mort.html>
- **Mon pays la Haute Provence:** <http://monpayslahauteprovence.blog50.com/archive/2007/10/10/contre-la-peine-de-mort.html>
- **Multipol:** <http://blog.multipol.org/post/2007/09/19/ACTU-:->
Opposition-de-la-Pologne-a-la-creation-dune-journee-europeenne-contre-la-peine-de-mort
- **Nicolas Blain:** <http://nicolasblain.hautetfort.com/archive/2007/10/10/10-ocotobre-journee-mondiale-contre-la-peine-de-mort.html>
- **No Right Turn:** <http://norightturn.blogspot.com/2007/10/1010-world-day-against-death-penalty.html>
- **Ode to my Tainted Dreamz:** <http://nussaibah.wordpress.com/2007/10/10/world-day-against-the-death-penalty/>
- **Opinion libre:** <http://robocup555.blogs.nouvelobs.com/archive/2007/10/05/peine-de-mort-le-maroc-bon-eleve.html>
- **Paroisse de Colomiers:** http://www.paroisse-colomiers.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=227&Itemid=82
- **P'tit Labello:** <http://ptit-labello.skyrock.com/>
- **PhD Studies in Human Rights:** <http://humanrightsdoctorate.blogspot.com/2007/10/world-day-against-death-penalty.html>
- **Politics, World, Life, Culture // Le blog de Louis Lepiofle:** <http://powolicu.wordpress.com/2007/10/10/peine-de-mort-une-abolition-mondiale-plus-que-necessaire/>
- **Prof en campagne:** <http://www.profencampagne.com/archive-10-10-2007.html>
- **Rénova(c)tion. Socialiste21:** <http://renovation.socialiste21.over-blog.com/article-12652577.html>
- **Sfia Bouarfa, Députée bruxelloise, sénatrice de communauté et conseillère communale schaarbeekoise:** http://sfiabouarfa.typepad.com/mon_weblog/2007/10/5me-journe-mond.html
- **Tennessee Coalition to Abolish the State Killing:** <http://tcask.blogspot.com/2007/10/world-day-against-death-penalty.html>
- **Texas Death Penalty Blog:** <http://texasdeathpenalty.blogspot.com/2007/11/death-penalty-calendar.html>
- **The Agonist:** http://agonist.org/20071010/europe_leads_world_day_against_death_penalty

- **The Death Penalty Debate:** <http://deathpenalty3.proboards103.com/index.cgi?board=global&action=display&thread=1191869148>
- **True Peace is the Presence of Justice:** <http://aiusa149.blogspot.com/2007/10/world-day-against-death-penalty-seeks.html>
- **Un Fontainois à Pékin:** <http://www.fontaine38.fr/olivierleclouerec/index.php?2007/10/10/591-journee-mondiale-tous-contre-la-peine-de-mort>
- **UMP Evian Thonon Giffre:** <http://www.ump-evian-thonon-giffre.com/article-12964757.html>
- **Vanille, Joyce et les autres....:** <http://carine8564.spaces.live.com/blog/cns!1B258C4D15DA391C!1880.entry>
- **Voices:** <http://blogogerosum.wordpress.com/2007/10/10/world-day-against-death-penalty/>
- **Waiting for the Stampede:** <http://waitingforthestampede.blogspot.com/2007/10/10-octobre-2007-5e-journee-mondiale.html>

OTHER SITES

Here is a non-exhaustive list of Internet sites which have passed on the appeal for signatures on the global petition in favour of the global moratorium, as well as the appeal for initiatives launched by the World Coalition on the occasion of the 2007 World Day against the Death Penalty.

- **Altermonde Sans Frontières:** <http://www.altermonde-sans-frontiere.com/spip.php?rubrique238>
- **C2NN:** <http://www.care2.com/news/category/world/death+penalty>
- **Defend International:** http://www.defendinternational.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=119&Itemid=73
- **FAMVIN The International Vincentian Family:** <http://famvin.org/en/archive/stop-the-death-penalty>
- **Homogène:** <http://www.homogene.be/homogene/site/index.php?page=telsquels&id=7>
- **HumanRights.ch:** http://www.humanrights.ch/home/fr/Suisse/Politique/Torture/idart_4571-content.html?zur=836
- **International Federation of Liberal Youth:** http://ifly.org/blogs/mos/archive/2007/09/28/FEL_3A00_-Pour-en-finir-avec-la-peine-de-mort.aspx
- **Iran manif:** <http://www.iranmanif.org/content/view/3335/89/>
- **Kurdax.net:** <http://www.kurdax.net/English/AliKiliic-AzadiBoRojnamevanan-1.pdf>
- **La Maison de l'Europe en Provence:** <http://www.lamaisondeleuropedeprovence.fr/letx1007.htm>
- **Numb3rs:** <http://www.numb3rs.fr/archives/330>
- **Parti Communiste du Québec:** <http://www.pcq.qc.ca/Dossiers/PCQ/Communiques/DossiersDivers/PourAbolitionDeLaPeineDeMort.htm>
- **Portail sur l'Histoire de la Justice, des crimes et des peines:** <http://www.criminocorpus.cnrs.fr/article305.html>
- **Stop Executions in Iran:** <http://www.stopexecution.net/>
- **The Greens European Free Alliance:** http://www.greens-efa.org/cms/pressreleases/dok/198/198843.peine_de_mort@en.htm
- **UNSA:** <http://www.unsa-education.org/modules.php?name=News&pagenum=8>
- **Wimps:** <http://www.wimps.org.uk/index.cfm/go/issues/key/EF52D10B-1372-37DB-A03FEB424F350BC2/page/4>

[3]

THE UN RESOLUTION A/RES/62/149 OF THE 18 DECEMBER 2007

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
1 November 2007
Original: English
07-57706 (E) 021107
0757706

Sixty-second session

Third Committee
Agenda item 70 (b)

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Moratorium on the use of the death penalty

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights² and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,³

Recalling also the resolutions on the question of the death penalty adopted over the past decade by the Commission on Human Rights in all consecutive sessions, the last being its resolution 2005/59,⁴ in which the Commission called upon States that still maintain the death penalty to abolish it completely and, in the meantime, to establish a moratorium on executions,

Recalling further the important results accomplished by the former Commission on Human Rights on the question of the death penalty, and envisaging that the Human Rights Council could continue to work on this issue,

Considering that the use of the death penalty undermines human dignity, and convinced that a moratorium on the use of the death penalty contributes to the enhancement and progressive development of human rights, that there is no conclusive evidence of the death

penalty's deterrent value and that any miscarriage or failure of justice in the death penalty's implementation is irreversible and irreparable,

Welcoming the decisions taken by an increasing number of States to apply a moratorium on executions, followed in many cases by the abolition of the death penalty,

Expresses its deep concern about the continued application of the death penalty;

Calls upon all States that still maintain the death penalty to:

(a) Respect international standards that provide safeguards guaranteeing the protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty, in particular the minimum standards, as set out in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/50 of 25 May 1984;

(b) Provide the Secretary-General with information relating to the use of capital punishment and the observance of the safeguards guaranteeing the protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty;

(c) Progressively restrict the use of the death penalty and reduce the number of offences for which it may be imposed;

(d) Establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty;

Calls upon States which have abolished the death penalty not to reintroduce it;

Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution;

Decides to continue consideration of the matter at its sixty-third session under the same agenda item.

1 Resolution 217 A (III).

2 See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

3 United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

4 See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 3 and corrigenda (E/2005/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

Detail of the voting

The draft resolution on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty (document A/62/439/Add.2) was adopted by a recorded vote of 104 in favour to 54 against, with 29 abstentions, as follows:

In favour

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Ivory Coast, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Madagascar, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia

(Federated States of), Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela.

Against

Afghanistan, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Chad, China, Comoros, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominica, Egypt, Ethiopia, Grenada, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Suriname, Syria, Thailand, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United States, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Abstain

Belarus, Bhutan, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Morocco, Niger, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Togo, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Zambia.

Absent

Guinea-Bissau, Peru, Senegal, Seychelles, Tunisia

PRESS RELEASES AND OFFICIAL STATEMENTS

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

[World Coalition against the Death Penalty

World Day against the Death Penalty 2007

Press release

The 2007 World Day against the Death Penalty will focus on calling on all UN Member States to vote in support of a resolution calling for a universal moratorium on executions. This resolution will be voted on at the United Nations General Assembly in November this year and will be a pivotal moment for working towards a world without executions. "There is a clear international trend away from using the death penalty as the ultimate punishment. If adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, a global moratorium on executions, having a particularly strong moral force, would be a very significant step towards worldwide abolition", emphasises Martin Macpherson, Director of Amnesty International's International Law and Organizations department.

During October, five press conferences to commemorate the World Day against the Death Penalty will be held in five of the world's cities: Rabat (Morocco), San Juan (Porto Rico), Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo), and Lisbon (Portugal), culminating with an event in New York (USA) on 10 October, World Day against the Death Penalty.

A petition signed by more than five million people across the world will be presented by the World Coalition against the Death Penalty to the United Nations General Assembly at the end of October. The petition calls for a moratorium on executions and abolition of capital punishment. Another important press conference will be organised again in New York for the handover of this petition.

To date, 133 countries have abolished capital punishment in law or in practice. Recent countries to commit to the abolition of the death penalty include Rwanda, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mexico, the Philippines, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The WCADP is lobbying to get to approximately 100 States to co-sponsor the resolution on a moratorium on executions at the United Nations General Assembly. Although the World Coalition against the Death Penalty is optimistic that a moratorium on the death penalty will be adopted, this is not a time for complacency.

In some parts of the world the struggle for abolition is more critical than ever. Last year at least 1,591 prisoners were executed. The top offending countries which account for 91% of these executions are China, the United States, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan and Sudan (source: Amnesty International).

The World Coalition today invites all governments to come together in support of a world without executions to contribute to strengthening human dignity and participate in the progress of human rights the world over. It calls on all Member States of the United Nations General Assembly to adopt a resolution calling for a global moratorium on executions.

[**Amnesty International**

10.10.2007 - PRESS RELEASE

Index AI: POL 30/024/2007 (Public)

Bulletin n°192

EFAI - Embargo: 10.10.2007 00.01 UT

STOP THE DEATH PENALTY: THE WORLD DECIDES

On this year's World Day against the Death Penalty, Amnesty International is calling on the world's governments to vote for the UN resolution on a global moratorium on executions, which will be introduced at the current session of the UN General Assembly.

"There is a real momentum towards abolition of the death penalty," said Irene Khan, Secretary General of Amnesty International. "A total of 133 UN member states, from all regions in the world, have abolished the death penalty in law or in practice. Only 25 countries carried out executions in 2006, 91 percent of them in just six countries: China, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Sudan and the USA. Those that chose this most cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment are increasingly in the minority."

"Governments must endorse the UN General Assembly resolution on a global moratorium on executions and take an important step to create a world without executions."

Recorded executions worldwide fell by more than 25 percent in 2006, with a drop from at least 2,148 in 2005 to at least 1,591 in 25 countries in 2006. At least 3,861 people were sentenced to death in 55 countries in 2006.

Europe is a death penalty-free zone, with the exception of Belarus. In Central Asia, there is a clear move towards abolition. Recently, Kyrgyzstan abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes in June 2007, Kazakhstan has had a moratorium on executions since 2003 and Tajikistan has had moratoria on executions and death sentences since 2004. Uzbekistan is also taking steps towards abolition.

In Africa, only six countries carried out executions in 2006. In March 2007, the Ghana Minister of the Interior, Albert Kan Dapaah, announced the commutation of 36 death sentences to life imprisonment. In April 2007 the High Court in Malawi declared the mandatory death penalty unconstitutional. In Nigeria in May 2007, the authorities announced that they would grant amnesty to all prisoners over 60 years old who had spent 10 years or more under sentence of death. In July 2007 Rwanda abolished the death penalty for all crimes. Burundi, Gabon and Mali are taking steps towards abolition.

The USA stands alone as the only state in the Americas to have carried out any executions since 2003. The US itself is slowly turning against the death penalty. The 53 executions carried out in 2006 represented the lowest annual total for a decade, and death sentences continue to drop from its peak in the mid-1990s.

In Asia, the Philippines abolished the death penalty in 2006. There has been some progress on reducing the death penalty in China. On 1 January 2007 the Supreme People's Court formally resumed its role of reviewing the sentences passed in China. It is expected that this review, according to Chinese legal scholars, would probably result in a 20 - 30 percent reduction in the total number of executions in China.

In Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia there is increasing debate about the abolition of the death penalty. In Morocco, a Truth Commission that concluded its work in 2005 has specifically recommended abolition of the death penalty.

[**Amnesty International**

Open letter

Index AI: ACT 50/019/2007 (Public)

Bulletin n° 193

EFAI

Embargo: 10.10.2007 00.01 UT

Open letter from Amnesty International Secretary General Irene Khan to UN member states calling for a global moratorium on executions

On the occasion of the World Day against the Death Penalty, I am writing to urge all UN member states to support a United Nations General Assembly resolution calling for a global moratorium on executions. This initiative is supported by countries from all regions of the world and would be an important milestone towards achieving the General Assembly's stated aim: the world wide abolition of the death penalty.

The death penalty is the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment. It is discriminatory and often used disproportionately against the poor, minorities and members of racial, ethnic and religious communities. It is often imposed after a grossly unfair trial. But even when trials are fair the risk of executing the innocent can never be fully eliminated. A momentum is gathering to end capital punishment in all countries: the majority of UN member states, from all regions of the world, have abolished the death penalty in law or in practice and only 25 countries have carried out executions in 2006. Amnesty International's statistics also show a significant, overall decline in the number of reported executions in 2006. This trend towards abolition has been recognized and supported by the UN Secretary-General and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Amnesty International believes that the proposed resolution should include the following elements:

Calling on retentionist states to establish a moratorium on executions as a first step towards abolition of the death penalty;

Calling on retentionist states to respect international standards that guarantee the protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty; and

Requesting the UN Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the moratorium to the next session of the UNGA.

I urge you to support this resolution.

Public Document

For more information please call Amnesty International's press office in London, UK, on +44 20 7413 5566

Amnesty International, 1 Easton St., London WC1X 0DW. web:

<http://www.amnesty.org>

For latest human rights news view <http://news.amnesty.org>

Press Release

**World Day Against the Death Penalty 2007
FIACAT calls on United Nations member States to support a
Resolution calling for a universal moratorium on capital punishment**

In the context of the 5th World Day Against the Death Penalty on 10 October 2007, the International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture (FIACAT) and the entire network of ACAT groups are inviting all United Nations member States to support the Resolution put before the General Assembly calling for a universal moratorium on capital punishment.

The Resolution will be voted on by the UN General Assembly in November, and, if adopted, will represent an important step towards a world free from the death penalty.

As Sylvie Bukhari-de Pontual, President of FIACAT, commented in July 2005, "The death penalty is an aberration. It is inhuman. It is degrading. It stems from a desire for vengeance and not prevention. The outcome is death, not healing. The death penalty is no deterrent. It continues the violence. It does not bring justice, but denies it. The death penalty constitutes a brutal, absolute and irreversible violation of human rights."

For these reasons, and as a member of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, FIACAT has been heavily involved in lobbying States to support this Resolution. In particular it has campaigned with ACAT groups in Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Madagascar, Mali and the Central African Republic in a defence campaign to entreat their governments to vote in favour of the Resolution. FIACAT has also been actively collecting signatures for a petition organised by the World Coalition, calling for a moratorium on executions and the abolition of the death penalty. This petition will be presented to the President of the UN General Assembly by the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

To date, 133 States around the world have abolished the death penalty in law or fact. Over 91% of all executions over the last few years have taken place in 6 countries: China, the USA, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan and Sudan.

Contact :
Guillaume Colin : g.colin@fiacat.org

COMMUNIQUÉ DE PRESSE

POL 30/024/2007

À l'occasion de la Journée mondiale contre la peine de mort, ce 10 octobre 2007, Amnesty International demande aux gouvernements du monde entier de voter en faveur de la résolution appelant à l'instauration d'un moratoire mondial sur les exécutions, qui sera présentée lors de l'actuelle session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations unies.

« Il existe une véritable dynamique en faveur de l'abolition de la peine capitale, a déclaré Irene Khan, secrétaire générale d'Amnesty International. Au total, 133 États membres des Nations unies, de toutes les régions du globe, l'ont abolie en droit ou en pratique. En 2006, 25 États seulement ont mis à mort des prisonniers et 91 p. cent de ces exécutions ont eu lieu dans six pays : la Chine, les États-Unis, l'Iran, l'Irak, le Pakistan et le Soudan. Ceux qui ont choisi ce châtement extrêmement cruel, inhumain et dégradant sont de plus en plus minoritaires.

« En adoptant la résolution de l'Assemblée générale de l'ONU concernant le moratoire sur les exécutions, les gouvernements feront un grand pas vers un monde sans exécutions. » Les exécutions recensées dans le monde ont baissé de plus de 25 p. cent en 2006, passant d'au moins 2 148 en 2005 à au moins 1 591 dans 25 pays en 2006. Pas moins de 3 861 personnes ont été condamnées à mort dans 55 pays en 2006.

La peine de mort n'est plus appliquée en Europe, à l'exception de la Biélorussie. Quant à l'Asie centrale, elle se dirige clairement vers l'abolition : le Kirghizistan a aboli la peine de mort pour les crimes ordinaires en juin 2007, le Kazakhstan a adopté un moratoire sur les exécutions depuis 2003 et le Tadjikistan a instauré des moratoires sur les exécutions et les condamnations à mort depuis 2004. L'Ouzbékistan prend également des mesures en faveur de l'abolition.

En Afrique, seuls six pays ont procédé à des exécutions en 2006. En mars 2007, le ministre de l'Intérieur du Ghana, Albert Kan Dapaah, a annoncé la commutation de 36 condamnations à mort en détentions à perpétuité. En avril 2007, la Haute cour du Malawi a déclaré la peine de mort statutaire contraire à la Constitution. Au Nigeria, en mai 2007, les autorités ont annoncé qu'elles gracieraient tous les prisonniers de plus de soixante ans qui avaient passé au moins dix ans sous le coup d'une condamnation à mort. En juillet 2007, le Rwanda a aboli la peine de mort pour tous les crimes. Le Burundi, le Gabon et le Mali s'engagent eux aussi sur la voie de l'abolition.

Les États-Unis se démarquent en tant que seul pays des Amériques à avoir exécuté des condamnés depuis 2003. Pourtant, ils se détournent lentement de ce châtement. Il y a eu 53 exécutions en 2006 – chiffre le plus bas depuis dix ans – tandis que les condamnations à mort ne cessent de diminuer depuis leur niveau record au milieu des années 1990.

En Asie, les Philippines ont aboli la peine capitale en 2006. En Chine, on a pu constater un certain recul de la peine de mort. Le 1^{er} janvier 2007, la Cour populaire suprême a officiellement repris son rôle consistant à examiner les condamnations prononcées en Chine. D'après les experts juridiques chinois, cela devrait probablement faire baisser de 20 à 30 p. cent le nombre total d'exécutions dans le pays.

Au Maroc, en Algérie et en Tunisie, le débat s'intensifie au sujet de l'abolition de la peine capitale. Au Maroc, une Commission de la vérité ayant conclu ses travaux en 2005 a expressément préconisé de supprimer ce châtement.

[**Amnesty International Belgique**

Les dates et évènements clés de la journée internationale du 10 octobre **Journée mondiale contre la peine de mort**

Mercredi 10 octobre, des personnalités et des militants marqueront la Journée mondiale contre la peine de mort lors de conférence de presse organisée par Amnesty International partout dans le monde.

Les intervenants exhorteront les États membres de l'ONU à voter en faveur d'une résolution appelant à un moratoire mondial sur les exécutions.

À New York :

Interviendront notamment : sœur Helen Prejean, auteure de *La Dernière Marche* ; Tim Robbins, réalisateur et acteur ; Mike Farrell, acteur et président de Death Penalty Focus ; Souhayr Belhassen, présidente de la Fédération internationale des ligues des droits de l'Homme (FIDH) et Michel Taube, de la Coalition mondiale contre la peine de mort.

Heure : 14 h 30 - 16 h 30, heure locale

Lieu : Church Center, 777 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017

À Bruxelles :

Rassemblement devant l'auditoire Paul-Émile Janson, en face de l'ambassade d'Iran, Avenue Franklin Roosevelt 48 - 1050 Bxl

Les manifestants exhorteront les États membres de l'ONU à voter en faveur d'une résolution appelant à un moratoire mondial sur les exécutions.

L'attention sera également attirée sur la situation en Iran, un des pays qui exécute le plus au monde, qui continue à exécuter des mineurs et qui permet la lapidation des femmes. Présence de personnalités marraines d'Amnesty et quelques représentants politiques.

Heure : à 11 heures précises

Consigne vestimentaire : être vêtu de noir

Conférence de Marie HOLZMAN, sinologue, sur Chine : la peine de mort

Lieu : Fondation Universitaire, salle A, rue d'Egmont 11 - 1000 Bruxelles

Heure : 20 heures

À Namur

Conférence-débat : Abolir !

Avec Christian Panier, Michel Graindorge, Xavier Dijon s.j.

Modératrice : Françoise Nice.

Organisée par le groupe d'action Amnesty de Namur et le cercle des étudiants en Droits de L'université de Namur.

Heure : 19h00 Lieu : à l'auditoire Pierre Maon (faculté de Droit)

Musique 3 consacrera la soirée du 10 octobre à cette thématique

[**Murder Victim's Families for Human Rights**

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

World Day against the Death Penalty

Here's MVFHR's public statement released on this World Day against the Death Penalty: Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights is an organization of family members of homicide victims and family members of people who have been executed. As survivors with a direct stake in the death penalty debate, and as people who believe in the value of basic human rights principles, we join today in the call for a worldwide moratorium on executions.

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

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

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

Today, on World Day against the Death Penalty, the United Nations General Assembly is considering a resolution that will take us one step closer to fulfilling the aspiration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. As victims, we urge the members of the General Assembly to adopt the UN resolution for a universal moratorium on executions.

Read more about anti-death penalty events going on around the world today on the website of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty.

[**Fédération des étudiants libéraux**

Florence Reuter et les Étudiants Libéraux main dans la main contre la peine de mort

La Fédération des Étudiants Libéraux (FEL) appelle il y a peu à la reconnaissance officielle par l'État belge de la date du 10 octobre comme Journée en faveur de l'abolition universelle de la peine de mort. Elle se réjouit aujourd'hui du dépôt, par la Députée fédérale Florence Reuter, d'une proposition de résolution allant clairement dans ce sens. Elle appelle l'ensemble des représentants à soutenir unanimement ce texte.

À l'origine de l'adoption, par le Congrès International des Jeunes Libérales (IFLRY), réuni à Dallas (Texas) en juillet dernier, d'une résolution engageant ses membres en faveur de l'abolition universelle de la peine de mort, la Fédération des Étudiants Libéraux maintient la pression sur les Assemblées parlementaires fédérales afin qu'une résolution reconnaissant officiellement la Journée internationale en faveur de l'abolition universelle de la peine de mort y soit adoptée.

Les Étudiants Libéraux se réjouissent dès lors du fait que Madame Florence Reuter dépose, à la veille de cette journée symbolique, une proposition de résolution parlementaire demandant au Gouvernement fédéral « de reconnaître officiellement la date du 10 octobre comme Journée mondiale contre la peine de mort ; de déclarer, de concert avec le Conseil de l'Europe, le 10 octobre de chaque année « Journée européenne contre la peine de mort », comme stipulé dans la Résolution du Parlement européen du 27 septembre 2007 sur un moratoire universel sur la peine de mort ; et d'œuvrer afin de promouvoir l'abolition de la peine de mort dans les pays la pratiquant encore. »

Les Étudiants Libéraux espèrent vivement qu'un vote unanime des représentants viendra réaffirmer avec véhémence l'opposition inconditionnelle et active de l'État belge à la peine de mort quel que soit le motif de condamnation du prisonnier et le contexte dans lequel le crime a été commis.

Admis depuis peu parmi la cinquantaine d'organisations membres de la Coalition mondiale contre la peine de mort, les Étudiants Libéraux souhaitent porter les revendications de ce rassemblement d'acteurs abolitionnistes auprès des institutions belges, dont la reconnaissance du 10 octobre relayée par Florence Reuter. Ils mènent également depuis ce lundi, sur différents campus de Communauté française une large campagne de sensibilisation dans le cadre même de cette journée symbolique dédiée cette année à la nécessité d'une résolution soumise à l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies prévoyant un moratoire universel sur les exécutions.

[**NCPDA Statement**

Contact: Nasser Rashidi
October 9, 2007
Dir. Tel: 202-487-6989

World Day against the Death Penalty and the ongoing tragedy in Iran
October 10th is the World Day against the Death Penalty. On this day, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Bar Associations, Unions and local governments join to coordinate international lobbying efforts to sensitize states that still maintain the death penalty.

Nowhere in the world is such effort more necessary than in Iran. Adjusted for population size, Iran has world's highest execution rate. In its September 5, 2007 statement, Amnesty International noted that it is "appalled at the reports of the execution of 21 people in Iran" on the same day (September 5, 2007) "which brought the total number of executions recorded by the organization since the start of 2007 to 210." The statement adds: "the scope of capital crimes in Iran remains extraordinarily large and includes vaguely worded charges, such as 'enmity against God'". Notably, these executions are conducted in public. Indeed, Iranian regime and its Revolutionary Guards have a 30 year history of executing political prisoners without due process.

In an attempt to conceal their motives, the mullahs (be it the supposed moderates or the conservatives) routinely label innocent political prisoners with criminal offences before executing them in public.

Unlike most civilized nations, Iranian regime increasingly carries out the capitol punishment in public. These abuses represent a systematic phenomenon and are deliberate. Mullah's justification for brutality draws its origins from many factors, including two main elements. First, the Sharia law, which allows for significant gender inequality, persecution of individuals, and public executions. Secondly, the Iranian government, in its continual drive to further secure power base and to maintain its control over a multi-ethnic society, disregards the most basic of human rights.

Public executions in Iran and wherever else they occur are a dark stain on humanity. Iranian mullah's blatant disregards for human dignity, freedom, and self determination are representative of the particular danger they pose to the civilized world.

The National Coalition of Pro-Democracy Advocates observes the October 10th World Day Against Executions and calls on all governments, the United Nations, Human Rights organizations, and concerned citizens to help stop the escalating executions worldwide. In particular, we urge immediate action to stop the execution of innocent people by the extremist government of Iran.

2020 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Suite 235
Washington, DC 20006
Tel : 202-595-1823
Fax:202-318-8152
e-mail: info@ncpdous.org

[REPRIEVE

World Day against the Death Penalty: Reprieve Calls for Worldwide Abolition of the Death Penalty

10.10.07

Ahead World Day against the Death Penalty (October 10th) Clive Stafford Smith, Director of Reprieve, UK charity which provides frontline investigation and legal representation to prisoners on death row, said:

“As the UK marks the World Day against the Death Penalty, America is right now caught up in a farcical argument about whether the lethal injection is ‘cruel and unusual’ punishment. This is a process that can paralyse while failing to anaesthetise, leaving prisoners in unimaginable pain but unable to call out for help as the final drug induces massive heart failure and death. “Cruel and unusual” doesn’t really cut it.

“The time has come for the Americans to face up to reality: there is no humane way to execute someone.

“And we too are complicit in the grim example America sets to the rest of the world. Nearly forty years after Britain abolished the death penalty the government continues to allow other states to sentence our citizens to death. Across the world today 10 Britons are condemned to die. Some of them are certainly innocent. Others have seen vital forensic evidence disallowed in court – simply for reasons of flawed legal process. Even more have suffered the worst legal representation because they were too poor to pay. Yet all too often the British government does not intervene early enough. So this day of action is not just about countries that still execute prisoners. We need to look to ourselves.”

~ Ends~

For further information or interviews, please call the Reprieve press office on 020 7131 3609.

Reprieve provides frontline investigation and legal representation to prisoners denied justice by powerful governments across the world, from death row to Guantánamo Bay.

We prioritise the cases of prisoners held governments that should be upholding the highest human rights standards enshrined in international law.

We help prisoners facing the death penalty, particularly in America or when British nationals are involved. And we help prisoners denied justice in the name of the “war on terror”, such as those held without charge or trial in Guantánamo Bay and the countless secret prisons beyond. None of these prisoners can afford to pay for representation.

[**European Union**

Europe against the Death Penalty, 9 October - Centro Cultural de Belém/Lisbon - 10 a.m.

Date: 2007-10-06

We are in at the final countdown to the beginning of the Conference “Europe against Death Penalty,” which will be held at Lisbon, in the next 9th of October, a co-organization from the Portuguese Ministry of Justice, in the scope of the Portuguese Presidency of the European Union, the European Commission and the Council of Europe.

With this initiative, Europe intends to take another important step in the global eradication of such practice, increasing the ethical and defence of Human Rights standards to much more demanding levels, also raising awareness within the International Community for the adoption of the same democratic and abolitionary attitude.

It is true that the path towards the eradication of death penalty has been long and slow. Nevertheless, there are gradually more signs of an increasing consensus at a global level that such practice is inadequate to Democratic States based on the rule of law that defend the people’s Freedoms, Rights and Safeguards.

That is the path that the European Union and the Council of Europe, in collaboration with the European Parliament, intend to draw. A path that leads us to the world abolition and eradication of death penalty, through a universal moratorium.

From now on, the Council of Europe proclaims the 10th of October as the European day against Death Penalty, and also as a world symbol for the celebration of human life, Justice, the ability to regenerate the human beings and the democratic values.

LOCATION - Centro Cultural de Belém, Lisbon
Lisbon, the 4th October 2007
Press Office of the Minister of Justice

European Parliament:

EP President Pöttering calls for the abolition of the death penalty in the presence of freed Bulgarian medics

Human rights - 10-10-2007 - 04:10

On the World Day against the Death Penalty (10 October), EP President Hans-Gert Pöttering stated that the European Parliament opposed the death penalty. President Pöttering paid tribute to the freed Bulgarian medics who were present in the Parliamentary Chamber. Mr Pöttering recalled that the Bulgarian medics were held in custody in Libya for eight years and said that the European Parliament had, on several occasions, called for the freeing of the medics and had opposed the death penalty.

“We thank all countries that have abolished the death penalty, in particular Rwanda. We also call on China to break its ‘wall of silence’ on the use of the death penalty. We appeal for support for the EU sponsored UN resolution and for all countries to support it in New York”.

The European Parliament, has in fact, he recalled, adopted three resolutions on the abolition of the death penalty this year (see below) and “we pay tribute to all victims of the death penalty.” MEPs observed a minute of silence in their memory.

Peine de mort

Le Conseil de l'Europe, un espace sans peine de mort

L'Europe est aujourd'hui le seul espace au monde où la peine de mort est quasi hors la loi. Les 47 États membres de l'Organisation soit ont aboli la peine capitale ou, à défaut, institué un moratoire sur les exécutions.

Le Conseil de l'Europe a joué un rôle déterminant dans le combat pour l'abolition, considérant que la peine de mort n'a pas sa place dans les sociétés démocratiques.

L'action du Conseil de l'Europe s'est traduite par l'adoption, en 1983, suite à une initiative de l'Assemblée parlementaire, du Protocole n° 6 à la Convention européenne des Droits de l'Homme sur l'abolition en temps de paix. En 2002, une seconde étape importante a été franchie avec l'adoption du Protocole n° 13 sur l'abolition de la peine capitale en toutes circonstances, y compris pour des actes commis en temps de guerre.

L'abolition est devenue une condition d'adhésion à l'Organisation. De ce fait, plus aucune exécution n'a été constatée au sein des pays membres de l'Organisation depuis 1997.

Aujourd'hui, l'Assemblée parlementaire continue de suivre de près la question de l'abolition de la peine de mort. Son action est notamment dirigée vers les pays disposant du statut d'observateur auprès de l'Organisation. Cela concerne, en particulier, le Japon et les États-Unis d'Amérique.

European Parliament Press release

Institutions - 10-10-2007 - 16:08

Opening of the Brussels plenary session - in the presence of the freed Bulgarian medics

The House paid tribute to Fausto CORREIA who died on Monday night. M. Fausto CORREIA was a Portuguese Member of the European Parliament from 2004. The House also paid tribute to former French MEP Christian de La Malène who died on 26 September.

Selected highlights of the Brussels plenary session 10-11 October 2007 include: Wednesday 10 October 2007.

The freed Bulgarian nurses held in Libya will be present for the Brussels plenary session at the invitation of EP President Hans-Gert Pöttering.

The European Parliament President Hans-Gert Pöttering will open the session with a statement on the World/European Day against the Death Penalty (10 October). In the resolution adopted at the last plenary, MEPs gave their "full support to EU institutions and Members States to declare, together with the Council of Europe, a European Day against the Death Penalty on 10 October each year". Parliament regrets "the lack of unanimity in the Council on this issue and calls on the future Polish Government to fully support this initiative that reflects the basic values of the European Union."

Just eight days before the crucial summit in Lisbon, MEPs will debate the preparation of the informal summit of heads of state and government. The current Intergovernmental Conference is due to complete its work as quickly as possible, and in any case before the end of 2007, so as to allow for sufficient time to ratify the resulting Treaty before the European Parliament elections in June 2009.

The House will then debate a key report on the future composition and number of seats per Member State in the European Parliament. The allocation of seats approved in committee follows the rules established by the June 2007 European Council, which invited the European Parliament to present a proposal by October this year. The draft Reform Treaty lays down that the new EP composition will be decided by the European Council acting by unanimity, on the basis of Parliament's proposal and after obtaining its consent. The Nice Treaty and the Accession Treaties for Romania and Bulgaria allocated 72 MEPs for the UK for the 2009 European elections. In the EP report, the UK has 73 MEPs. For Ireland, there is no change with both Nice and the EP report allocating 12 MEPs to Ireland for the 2009 European elections.

MEPs will then debate on a resolution on the humanitarian situation in Gaza after hearing statements from the Commission and the Council. On 27 September, the Conference of Presidents made a statement saying that it "deplored the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip." The Conference was informed about serious declines in health indicators, such as increased rates of malnutrition and chronic diseases. The vote takes place on Thursday. The financing of the Common Agriculture Policy comes under the spotlight with the Agriculture Committee saying it would like all national lists of recipients of EU direct farm aid to be published on the Internet and for links to be created from the Commission's website to websites of the paying agencies in the Member States. Currently thirteen Member States have set up on-line registers accessible to the public via the Europa website. On the sidelines of the plenary, at 5pm, there will be a seminar on the Sakharov Prize for freedom of thought. The three nominees are Russian journalist Anna Politkovskaya, Sudanese lawyer Salih Mahmoud Osman and Chinese dissidents Zeng Jinyan and Hu Jia. The leaders of Parliament's Political Groups will choose a winner in October. The prize will be awarded in plenary in December.

Thursday 11 October 2007.

The House debates and votes on two transport reports on Thursday. First, the Transport Committee recommends that the Parliament should give the green light to the EU-US aviation agreement which was signed at the EU-US summit of 30 April 2007 and which the Council endorsed and decided to apply provisionally as from 30 March 2008.

Second, the Transport Committee is calling for a "master plan" for enhanced airport capacity in order to promote and better coordinate any national and cross-border initiative for building new airport capacities and to make better use of existing capacities.

Source: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/008-11446-283-10-41-901-20071008IPR11350-10-10-2007-2007-false/default_en.htm

European Parliament Press release

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tribute to the freed Bulgarian medics who were present in the Parliamentary Chamber. M. Pöttering recalled that the Bulgarian medics were held in custody in Libya for eight years and said that the European Parliament had, on several occasions, called for the freeing of the medics and had opposed the death penalty.

“We thank all countries that have abolished the death penalty, in particular Rwanda. We also call on China to break its ‘wall of silence’ on the use of the death penalty. We appeal for support for the EU sponsored UN resolution and for all countries to support it in New York”. The European Parliament, has in fact, he recalled, adopted three resolutions on the abolition of the death penalty this year (see below) and “we pay tribute to all victims of the death penalty.” MEPs observed a minute of silence in their memory.

Source: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/015-11465-283-10-41-902_20071010IPR11464-10-10-2007-2007-true/default_en.htm

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Press release - 621(2007)

The Council of Europe declares the 10th of October European Day against the Death Penalty

Strasbourg, 27.09.2007 – The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe has decided to declare a “European Day against the Death Penalty”, which will be held annually on 10 October. On this occasion, the Committee expressed the hope that the European Union will join the initiative as soon as possible.

The Council of Europe has been a pioneer in the abolition process which has made Europe a *de facto* death-penalty-free zone since 1997.

There are two Council of Europe legal instruments outlawing the death penalty:

- Protocol No. 6 to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), the first legally-binding instrument providing for the unconditional abolition of the death penalty in peacetime;
- Protocol No. 13 to the ECHR concerning the abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances.

The Day will be a European contribution to the World Day against the Death Penalty, which is held annually on 10 October.

On 9 October, the leaders of the Council of Europe and the European Union, as well as representatives of the organisations’ member states, will gather at an international conference against the death penalty in Lisbon, organised by the Portuguese Presidency of the EU with the support of the European Commission. Many other leading personalities from the political sphere and civil society will take part in the conference, which will reaffirm Europe’s commitment to the worldwide abolition of the death penalty and will call for a global moratorium.

For more information, see www.coe.int/deathpenalty.

Terry Davis: “The abolition of the death penalty in Europe is far too important to be taken for granted”

Excerpts from the speech by Council of Europe Secretary General Terry Davis at the international conference against the death penalty organised by the Council of Europe, the Portuguese Presidency of the European Union and the European Commission.

Lisbon, 09.10.2007 – “The year 2007 marks a decade without the death penalty in the member states of the Council of Europe. It means that no one has been hanged, poisoned, decapitated, electrocuted, shot or otherwise killed by criminal justice systems during the last 10 years anywhere in Europe except in Belarus, which is not a member of the Council of Europe.

But our work is not yet done. The abolition of the death penalty is far too important to be taken for granted.

We know that there are many people in Europe who continue to support the death penalty. Every time there is a particularly gruesome crime, or, in some cases, when election is coming - there are voices calling for the death penalty to be reinstated.

We need to go out and explain to people why the death penalty is wrong, why it has been abolished, and why it should stay abolished. The European Day against the Death Penalty provides an opportunity to do so.

Europe’s second priority is to demonstrate that there is no contradiction between the effective fight against crime, including terrorism, and a criminal justice system which respects human rights.

Our final priority is the death penalty elsewhere in the world. Some of our closest friends and observers at the Council of Europe continue to execute people.

It is for all these reasons that the Council of Europe has decided to hold the European Day against the Death Penalty every year on 10 October. The abolition of the death penalty in Europe is the pinnacle of our progress in the defence of human dignity and human rights. The European Day against the Death Penalty will help us to make progress towards the day, in a not too distant future, when the death penalty will be eradicated throughout the world.”

For the full text of the speech and more information, see www.coe.int/deathpenalty.

EU News

138/2007 - 2007/10/10

Statement on World Day against the Death Penalty

IP/07/1471

Brussels, 10 October 2007

Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, Benita Ferrero-Waldner joins in the calls to abolish the death penalty: "Today, on the World Day against the Death Penalty I join in with all those who urge all states to abolish the death penalty in practice and law. We must break the cycle of violence and reaffirm the value of life. The EU's firm political commitment is shown by its decision to introduce, in the framework of a cross-regional alliance, a resolution against the death penalty at the 62nd United Nations General Assembly."

The European Union's commitment against the death penalty goes beyond formal statements: The European Commission has funded around 30 anti-death penalty projects worldwide since 1994, with an overall budget of about euros 15 million. As of 2007, eight projects were ongoing and six new ones have been selected. A further euros 4 million have been allocated to support the abolition of the death penalty for 2007-2008.

To date 133 countries have abolished the death penalty in practice or in law and over 50 countries have abolished the death penalty for all crimes since 1990.

For more information:

The EU's Human rights & Democratisation Policy - Abolition of the Death Penalty:
http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/human_rights/adp/index.htm

STATE AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

[**Ministry of foreign affairs (France)**]

Journée mondiale et européenne contre la peine de mort (Paris, 10 octobre 2007)

Déclaration conjointe de M. Bernard Kouchner, ministre des Affaires étrangères et européennes, et de Mme Rama Yade, secrétaire d'État aux Affaires étrangères et aux Droits de l'Homme

« À l'occasion de la journée mondiale contre la peine de mort, nous tenons à réaffirmer l'opposition catégorique de la France à cette pratique quelles que soient les circonstances. Elle constitue une atteinte à la dignité humaine.

Le combat pour l'abolition universelle de la peine de mort est une priorité pour notre pays ainsi que pour l'Union européenne et pour le Conseil de l'Europe, qui vient d'instituer le 10 octobre comme journée européenne contre la peine de mort. Nous saluons cette initiative. En février dernier, la France a inscrit dans sa Constitution l'interdiction de la peine de mort. Elle a dès lors ratifié le second protocole facultatif relatif au Pacte international sur les droits civils et politiques des Nations unies, dont l'instrument de ratification a été déposé à New York par Mme Rama Yade, secrétaire d'État chargée des Affaires étrangères et des Droits de l'Homme, le 2 octobre dernier.

La France a parrainé le troisième congrès mondial contre la peine de mort qui s'est tenu à Paris du 1^{er} au 3 février 2007, à l'initiative de l'association Ensemble contre la peine de mort. Nous nous réjouissons de constater que la peine de mort recule dans le monde. Néanmoins, l'objectif de son abolition universelle exige encore la mobilisation de tous. Nous saluons les défenseurs des Droits de l'Homme qui, avec courage et détermination, luttent sur le terrain, dans des conditions parfois extrêmement difficiles, et fédèrent des initiatives pour créer un mouvement universel des consciences.

Une déclaration contre la peine de mort a été signée par quatre-vingt-quinze États, au cours de l'année qui vient de s'écouler, à l'Assemblée générale des Nations unies. Un projet de résolution relative à un moratoire universel et à l'abolition de la peine de mort sera présenté cette année par des pays de tous les continents.

En ce 10 octobre, la France réitère son appel à tous les pays qui continuent d'appliquer la peine de mort de l'abolir ou d'instituer, dans cette attente, un moratoire sur les exécutions et les condamnations. »

Pour en savoir plus

Déclaration de la présidence au nom de l'Union européenne (Bruxelles, 10 octobre 2007)

« L'Union européenne fait part de sa profonde inquiétude face aux cas de condamnation à mort qui ne satisfont pas aux critères de justice les plus élevés. Elle se déclare vivement préoccupée par le fait que, dans quelques pays, des mineurs sont toujours condamnés à mort et exécutés, en violation manifeste des obligations internationales de ces pays. »

[**Ministry of foreign affairs (Italy)**]

Undersecretary Vernetti to speak at the “Europe against the death penalty” conference

Rome October 09 2007

Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Gianni Vernetti is participating today in Lisbon in the “Europe against the death penalty” conference organised by the Portuguese EU duty Presidency, the European Commission and the Council of Europe. The event bears witness to Europe’s commitment to a matter with regard to which it has long been on the front lines, confirming Italy and Portugal’s convergence of ideas on capital punishment.

On 28 September, on the sidelines of the General Assembly, Italy and the Portuguese Presidency organised an event in favour of abolishing the death penalty in which over 100 countries participated. Moreover, thanks to Italy’s efforts, the Council of Europe’s Committee of Ministers has instituted the “European Day against the Death Penalty”. These are successes that have encouraged Italy and the European Union to intensify its efforts to present a resolution to the General Assembly in New York calling for a universal moratorium on executions and abolition of the death penalty.

Since 1990 more than 50 nations have abolished the death penalty and, to date, approximately 130 nations are maintaining a moratorium on capital executions. Nevertheless, 5628 executions were carried out in 2006, and the countries that carry them out rose in number from 24 to 27 in 2006. Undersecretary Vernetti will reiterate at the conference the need to boost efforts and will also confirm Italy’s commitment to an initiative of high political and moral significance to which the government, the Parliament and the civil society have made a major contribution.

Participants in the Lisbon event are to include, among other, Portuguese Prime Minister José Socrates, President of the European Commission José Manuel Durao Barroso, Vice President of the European Commission Franco Frattini and representatives of the NGOs concerned with the death penalty.

[**UK Foreign Office**

Statement

World Day against the Death Penalty (10/10/07)

Today, on the fifth anniversary of the World Day against the Death Penalty and the launch of the European Day against the Death Penalty, Foreign Office Minister, Lord Malloch-Brown said:

‘The European Day against the Death Penalty shows further commitment within Europe to global abolition. It is another welcome step taken this year in addition to preparations by EU and other states to table a resolution against the death penalty at the UN General Assembly this autumn. This year has also seen another three states, Albania, Rwanda and Kyrgyzstan, abolish the death penalty in law. Momentum is towards abolition but there is a great deal still to be done.

‘We will continue to work with partners towards universal abolition.’

Notes to Editors

An international conference against the death penalty was held on Tuesday 9 October in Lisbon (Portugal) by the Council of Europe, the Portuguese presidency of the European Union and the European Commission. The Council of Europe officially declared a European Day against the Death Penalty, to be held annually on 10 October.

Albania and Kyrgyzstan abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes in 2000 and 2006 respectively. In 2007, Albania, Rwanda and Kyrgyzstan abolished the death penalty for all crimes.

Whilst there has been progress (noted above) which we have welcomed, a number of states continue to carry out executions, most notably China, Iran, Pakistan, Iraq, Sudan and the US. We are particularly concerned by a rise in executions in some of these countries. We are also concerned by the failure of some states to observe UN safeguards guaranteeing the protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty. We continue to urge states to be more transparent over the use of the death penalty particularly in those states where statistics remain secret.

Communiqué de presse du 10 octobre 2007 - Présidence

Message de Madame Micheline Calmy-Rey, Présidente de la Confédération suisse, à l'occasion de la Journée internationale contre la peine de mort

Berne, 10.10.2007 –

Une des premières fonctions de l'État est de garantir la sécurité des personnes. Autorités et gouvernements se doivent de protéger hommes et femmes le mieux possible de toute violence, criminalité, guerres, conflits internes et, bien sûr, violations des droits humains. Le droit à la vie est LE droit fondamental de l'humanité. S'il n'est pas respecté, les autres droits, par définition, ne s'appliquent pas. Comment un État peut-il rester crédible comme garant de la sécurité humaine s'il peut décider de la vie ou de la mort ? Certes, pour des crimes graves, les juges doivent pouvoir disposer de sanctions lourdes. Mais la peine capitale ne se justifie pas car son effet dissuasif ne peut être prouvé. Elle est inhumaine, car une erreur juridique ne peut jamais être exclue à 100 %. L'Etat risque - en appliquant la peine de mort - de se transformer en meurtrier. Pour ces raisons la peine de mort doit être bannie. Tous les États membres du Conseil de l'Europe s'y sont engagés. Mais le droit à la vie est une valeur universelle, un droit qui doit être protégé par tous les gouvernements de la planète.

La lutte contre la peine de mort s'inscrit dans la liste des priorités pour notre politique de droits humains. La Suisse participe activement aux débats contre la peine de mort qui se déroulent au sein des organisations internationales comme l'ONU, le Conseil de l'Europe et l'OSCE. Elle soutient l'engagement abolitionniste des organisations non-gouvernementales. Dans ses relations bilatérales, la Suisse engage également des dialogues avec de nombreux pays sur la problématique de la peine capitale.

Certains États ne veulent pas renoncer à la peine de mort. L'effort de persuasion de l'opinion internationale doit continuer. Le dialogue et la propagation des idées sont les meilleurs moyens. A ce titre, la journée internationale contre la peine de mort est un événement important. Je félicite les organisations non-gouvernementales regroupées dans la « Coalition mondiale contre la peine de mort » ainsi que le Conseil de l'Europe qui ont proclamé le 10 octobre journée internationale contre la peine de mort. La commémoration d'une journée contre la peine capitale sert à sensibiliser l'attention internationale. Aussi longtemps qu'il y aura des condamnations à mort et que le droit de certains États les prévoira, l'abolition de la peine de mort devra rester en tête des priorités de la politique internationale des droits humains.

Je remercie les responsables du Conseil de l'Europe et de l'Union européenne, ainsi que les représentants de leurs États membres, qui se sont réunis le 9 octobre à Lisbonne lors d'une conférence internationale contre la peine de mort, organisée par la présidence portugaise de l'UE avec le soutien de la Commission européenne. Cette conférence nous donne l'occasion de réaffirmer l'engagement de l'Europe en faveur de l'abolition de la peine de mort dans le reste du monde et appellera à un moratoire universel.

[**Norway delegation to EU - Norway's statement**

World Day against Death Penalty 10 October

Norway has aligned with an declaration on the World Day against Death Penalty 10 October. The declaration reads as follows:

On the occasion of the fourth World Day against the Death Penalty, the European Union reiterates its longstanding position against the death penalty. No one should be subject to capital punishment. In particular the EU expresses its compassion with individuals who have wrongly been sentenced to death and with their relatives and other indirect victims of death penalty. The European Union considers the death penalty as a cruel and inhuman punishment and a violation to the right to life. Any miscarriage of justice would be irreversible. The European Union - therefore - opposes the death penalty in all cases and in all circumstances. The European Union remains particularly concerned about the standards of justice, which are used in the application of capital punishment. The European Union is very pleased to note that the trend towards the worldwide abolition of the death penalty continues. The European Union finds this encouraging as we consider that the abolition of the death penalty contributes to the enhancement of human dignity and the progressive development of human rights. In cases where the death penalty is not abolished by law, the European Union calls for a moratorium on its use.

The European Union welcomes the abolition of the death penalty in Mexico, the Philippines and Moldova during the past year and the positive developments towards its complete abolition in many other countries. The European Union expresses its deep concern about the ongoing discussion in some abolitionist countries on reintroducing the death penalty into legislation. The EU expresses its absolute abhorrence of the fact that in a few countries - in clear violation of established international law - minors are still being sentenced to death and executed.

The efforts to abolish the death penalty must continue. The European Union will keep lobbying in various countries around the world in support of abolition. The European Union welcomes initiatives of civil society organisations, such as the third World Congress against the Death Penalty that will be organized by Ensemble Contre la Peine de Mort in cooperation with the World Coalition against the Death Penalty in Paris in February 2007. The European Union views this as an important event that will offer an international platform for institutional and civil society representatives worldwide to advance the abolitionist movement.

On this World Day against the Death Penalty the European Union calls on all governments of the countries which still retain the death penalty to show courage to work towards the abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances.

The Acceding Countries Bulgaria and Romania, the Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this declaration.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process

REVIEW OF THE PRESS (NON-EXHAUSTIVE)

EUROPE

[Austria

- AON Welttag gegen die Todesstrafe 10.10.2007
- DIE PRESSE 2006 Weltweit fast 1600 Hinrichtungen 10.10.2007
- KLEINE ZEITUNG Welttag gegen die Todesstrafe 10.10.2007
- KURIER Tag des Todesstrafe spaltet Polen - 10.10.2007 ; Lebensgeschichten gegen die Todesstrafe - 10.10.2007
- NETWORLD Welttag gegen die Todesstrafe: Nach wie vor werden zehntausende Menschen hingerichtet 10.10.2007
- RBX Lebensgeschichten gegen die Todesstrafe 10.10.2007
- WIENERZEITUNG In 25 Ländern arbeitet der Henker 10.10.2007
- WIENWEB Hinrichtung Tag der Todesstrafe –Demos in Polen 10.10.2007

[Belgium

- ACTU 24 Amnesty International manifeste contre la peine de mort 11.10.2007
- ILGA Sept pays appliquent encore la peine capitale à l'encontre des personnes qui aiment les personnes de même sexe 12.10.2007
- LA LIBRE BELGIQUE Peine de mort : en Iran, même des mineurs délinquants sont exécutés 10.10.2007
- RTBF « A Mort » la peine de mort 10.10.2007
- RTL BELGIQUE Manifestation contre la peine de mort à Bruxelles 10.10.2007
- 7 SUR 7 Amnesty International manifeste contre la peine de mort

[Bulgaria

- FOCUS NEWS BULGARIA Europe marks Day Against Death Penalty 10.10.2007
- NEWS It's World Day against the Death Penalty 10.10.2007

[Denmark

- MODKRAFT Iran: over 250 prisoners hanged, 71 minors on death row in 2007

[France

- AFP L'abolition universelle de la peine de mort, une priorité de l'Europe 10.10.2007
- AUJOURD'HUI LE JAPON La peine de mort au Japon : toujours en vigueur 10.10.2007
- BARREAU AUTOUR DU MONDE 10 octobre 2007 : Journée mondiale contre la peine de mort, campagne pour un moratoire universel sur les exécutions / Un pas décisif vers l'abolition universelle de la peine de mort / 5^{ème} Journée mondiale contre la peine de mort / 1^{re} Journée européenne contre la peine de mort
- BELLACIAO Journée pour l'abolition de la peine de mort – Déclaration du PCF
- CENTPAPIERS Moratoire universel contre la peine de mort et Journée mondiale 08.10.2007
- CONSEIL NATIONAL DE LA RÉSISTANCE IRANIENNE Simulacre de pendaison « à l'iranienne »

pour la Journée contre la peine de mort 10.10.2007 / Iran : plus de 250 prisonniers pendus en 2007, 71 enfants mineurs dans le couloir de la mort 11.10.2007 / Manifestation contre les exécutions en Iran 10.10.2007

- COURRIER INTERNATIONAL La Journée européenne contre la peine de mort 10.10.2007
- DERNIÈRES NOUVELLES D'ALSACE Pétition contre la peine de mort 21.10.2007
- EURONEWS Peine de mort 10.10.2007
- EVENE Pour une justice sans bourreau 10.10.2007
- EUROPE 1 Journée européenne contre la peine de mort 10.10.2007
- FRANCE 24 La peine de mort au Japon : toujours en vigueur 10.10.2007
- GAY MAG Signez la pétition pour un moratoire universel sur la peine de mort 11.10.2007
- INDYMEDIA Non à la peine de mort en Iran et ailleurs ! 10.10.2007
- IRAN FOCUS Des parlementaires britanniques appellent l'UE à intervenir contre les violations des droits de l'Homme en Iran 12.10.2007
- IRAN MANIF En Iran, les bourreaux actionnent des grues 11.10.2007 / Encore un jeune exécuté en Iran sous prétexte de vandalisme 13.10.2007
- IRAN MANIFESTATION Journée contre la peine de mort : pendaison factice « à l'iranienne » à Paris 10.10.2007
- JOURNAL CHRÉTIEN La Journée européenne contre la peine de mort 11.10.2007
- L'HUMANITÉ Mobilisation planétaire contre le crime légal 10.10.2007
- LA MARSEILLAISE Géographie sinistre des pays qui exécutent 10.10.2007
- LE COMITÉ DE SOUTIEN AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME EN IRAN Iran : plus de 250 prisonniers pendus en 2007, 71 enfants mineurs dans le couloir de la mort 11.10.2007 / Simulacre de pendaison « à l'iranienne » à Paris pour la Journée mondiale contre la peine de mort
- L'EXPRESS La France abolit la peine de mort, définitivement 10.10.2007
- LE JOURNAL DU DIMANCHE Perrin : « La peine de mort n'est pas dissuasive » 10.10.2007
- LE MONDE La France abolit la peine de mort « en toutes circonstances » 10.10.2007 / Des ONG organisent une pendaison factice pour dénoncer la peine de mort en Iran 10.10.2007 / 210 exécutions depuis janvier en Iran 11.10.2007 / Le Conseil de l'Europe instaure une Journée contre la peine de mort
- LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR « La peine de mort reste populaire aux États-Unis » 10.10.2007 / Kouchner et Yade appellent à l'abolition universelle 10.10.2007
- LE PETIT JOURNAL Manifestations en faveur de la Journée européenne contre la peine de mort 10.10.2007
- LES CLÉS DE L'ACTUALITÉ Journée contre la peine de mort 10.10.2007
- PÉLERINS MAGAZINE Record de pendaisons
- RADIO BLV Diffusion de reportages sur la peine de mort 10.10.2007
- RADIO ORIENT Les exécutions sont en rapport direct à la situation sociale explosive en Iran 11.10.2007
- RADIO RIG Entretien avec un membre bordelais de l'association Lutte pour la Justice 10.10.2007
- REPORTERS SANS FRONTIÈRES France/Iran : Journée mondiale contre la peine de mort 11.10.2007
- RESSOURCES SOLIDAIRES Non à la peine de mort en Iran et ailleurs ! 10.10.2007
- RTL L'appel à l'aide de la famille du seul Français condamné à mort 10.10.2007
- RUE 89 Des associations se mobilisent contre la peine de mort en Iran
- TÉMOIGNAGES LA RÉUNION 10 octobre : Journée mondiale contre la peine de mort
- WESTERN ARMENIA NEWS Journée mondiale contre la peine de mort 08.10.2007

[**Germany**

- DEUTSCHE WELLE Europe calls on World to Abolish Death Penalty 10.10.2007
- GAY REPUBLIC DAILY Today is the World Day against Death Penalty 10.10.2007

[**Ireland**

- THE EPOCH TIMES Chinese reformers address European Parliament Press conference 10.10.2007

[**Italy**

- EMILIANET Reggio Emilia: contro la pena di morte si firm a anche online 10.10.2007
- LA STAMPA Giornata contro la pena di morte – Reggio firma la moratoria Onu
- MAKEUROPE Nouveaux appels en Europe contre la peine de mort 11.10.2007
- VANITY FAIR Italia Il Boia sta « Morendo » ? 11.10.2007

[**Luxemburg**

- LE QUOTIDIEN A mort la peine capitale ! 10.10.2007

[**Spain**

- BASQUE NEWS ANS INFORMATION CHANNEL Death penalty makes a backward movement but is still there 10.10.2007

[**Switzerland**

- EDICOM Journée mondiale contre la peine de mort: Calmy-Rey plaide pour l'abolition
- LA TRIBUNE DES DROITS HUMAINS La peine de mort au Maroc: l'heure des responsabilités 02.10.2007
- L'EXTENSION Peine de mort : Journée mondiale
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- SCHWEIZER FERNSEHEN Welttag gegen die Todesstrafe 10.10.2007
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[**UK**

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- BBC NEWS Europe fights capital punishment 10.10.2007
- NCRI Iran: over 250 prisoners hanged, 71 minors on death row in 2007 10.10.2007

MIDDLE EAST – NORTH AFRICA

- BBC ARABIC SERVICE Interview of PRI Regional Director 09.10.2007

[**Iran**

- IRAN EMROOZ 07.10.2007
- IRANIAN Cutting the rope – Iran is the only country that executes via hanging in public – Piers Bannister 10.10.2007

[**Morocco**

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- ATLAS VISTA La Coalition mondiale contre la peine de mort pour un moratoire universel sur les exécutions
- L'ORIENT – LE JOUR L'ALEF appelle l'État à abolir la peine de mort 12.10.2007
- LA GAZETTE DU MAROC Reportage à la prison de Kénitra : la peine de mort au Maroc 13.10.2007
- LE MATIN Peine de mort : Appel l'Onu à soutenir la résolution du Conseil de l'Europe 12.10.2007
- LE REPORTER Peine de mort : un moratoire lancé du Maroc 14.10.2007
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- MAP La Coalition mondiale contre la peine de mort pour un moratoire universel sur les exécutions 03/10/2007

AFRICA

- BBC AFRIQUE Afrique en direct : Pour ou contre la peine de mort Au Mali et au Burundi le débat est ouvert
- JEUNE AFRIQUE Une campagne internationale contre la peine de mort, lancée depuis le Maroc 05.10.2007

[**Burundi**

- AGENCE NET PRESS Bujumbura Journée mondiale contre la peine de mort – la ligue Iteka appelle le parlement à adopter le projet de loi portant abolition de cette peine 10.10.2007

[**Central African Republic**

- LE CONFIDENT Déclaration de l'Acat-RCA relative à la Journée internationale contre la peine de mort 10.10.2007

[**DRC**

- AFP RDC :les abolitionnistes congolais en campagne contre la peine de mort
- AFRICA TV Intervention de Me Lunda de la CPJ est intervenu lors du Journal télévisé du 12/10 (activités de la Coalition congolaise en faveur de l'abolition)
- AGENCE PRESSE ASSOCIÉE La peine de mort devrait être abolie, affirme l'ambassadeur des Pays-Bas en RDC 06.10.2007 / Les abolitionnistes congolais en campagne contre la peine de mort 11.10.2007/
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- LA RÉFÉRENCE PLUS Moratoire universel contre la peine de mort 09.10.2007 / L'effectivité de l'abolition de la peine de mort en RDC 11.10.2007
- LE PHARE Peine de mort – les abolitionnistes soutiennent l'ONU 10.10.2007
- LE POTENTIEL La CCCPM démarre la semaine congolaise contre la peine de mort 06.10.2007
- LE SOFT INTERNATIONAL Une ONG remet en cause les arrêts de la Cour militaire 29/10/2007
- RADIO MAENDELEO Interview du responsable de l'Acat Sud-Kivu
- RADIO OKAPI RDC Peine de mort – un état des lieux sur le combat abolitionniste 11.10.2007
- TRG@ TV Interview de Me Liévin Ngondji au Journal télévisé de 19h 10.10.2007 (explication de la position de la Coalition congolaise par rapport à la peine de mort)

[**Senegal**

- LE SOLEIL Selon Amnesty international, 133 pays du monde ont aboli la peine de mort 10.10.2007
- SUD QUOTIDIEN Journée mondiale de lutte contre la peine de mort – Amnistie internationale invite les gouvernements à signer le moratoire de l'ONU 10.10.2007

[**Tanzania**

- CITIZEN NGO seeks to abolish capital punishment 11.10.2007
- DAILY NEWS Report on death penalty ready soon 11.10.2007
- GUARDIAN Human rights watchdogs advocate abolition of death penalty 12.10.07
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[**Togo**

- RADIO NOSTALGIE Entretien avec les membres d'Amnesty International Togo 10.10.2007
- RADIO VICTOIRE Entretien avec les membres d'Amnesty International Togo 10.10.2007

[**Uganda**

- DAILY MONITOR PAPER Publication du communiqué de la Foundation for Human Rights « Stop the death penalty: the world decides... Uganda decides »

AMÉRIQUES ET CARAÏBES

[**Canada**

- LA PRESSE CANADIENNE La France abolit la peine de mort en toutes circonstances 10.10.2007 / Le Canada rappelle aux Afghans de ne pas exécuter les prisonniers
- LE DEVOIR Texas légal 10.10.2007

[**Caribbean**

- CARIBBEAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION (BARBADES) Another call goes out for Barbados to abolish the death penalty
- JAMAICA GLEANER Human rights and the death penalty Today's observances as "World Day against the Death Penalty" are unlikely to attract much support or sympathy from a majority of Jamaicans 10.10.2007
- NATION NEWS Our Carribean: Screaming for death to killers
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[**Puerto Rico**

- EL TIEMPO Premian a Puerto Rico por oposicion a pena capital 10.10.2007
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- PRIMERA HORA Radicarán en la ONU resolución contra pena de muerte 10.10.2007

- SELECCIONADA LA ISLA Como uno de los lugares donde se anunciara que una resolucion contra la pena de muerte sera presentada ante la ONU 10.10.2007
- TERRA Piden que ONU apruebe resolución en contra de la pena de muerte / Exhorting that the UN Approves Resolution Against the Death Penalty 04.10.2007

[**United States**

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- BBS NEWS China should issue moratorium on executions before Olympics 10.10.2007
- HUMAN RIGHTS ESUCATION ASSOCIATES Dia Munidal contra la pena de muerte 10.10.2007
- IPS Death penalty: guarded optimism for moratorium vote 11.10.2007
- LIVING CITY MAGAZINE Let the Punishment fit the time search for meaning holding a Christian lens up to capital punishment 07.10.2007
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SOUTH AMERICA

[**Peru**

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- RPP NOTICIAS Amnistía Internacional exige abolición de pena de muerte en un acto en Lima

ASIA

[**China**

- LE QUOTIDIEN DU PEUPLE L'UE réaffirme son opposition à l'application de la peine de mort
- TAIPEI TIMES Association against death penalty to present film festival
- TAIWAN NEWS Activists seek to highlight issue of death penalty at film festival 10.10.2007 / Time to cease the death penalty / Taiwan urged to join movement for death penalty moratorium 17/10/2007 / Chen lauds Marazziti's efforts, reaffirms goal to end death penalty 17/10/2007 / Letters: Abolish the death penalty 12/10/2007
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[**India**

- THE HINDU Candlelight vigil against death penalty
- INDIA NEWS Europe leads World Day against Death Penalty 10.10.2007
- MERINEWS Why death penalty in a civilised society ? 17.09.2007

[**Japan**

- IPS Embarassing Times Ahead for Retentionists 14.11.2007

[**Nepal**

- MEDIA FOR FREEDOM EU Parliamenr president speaks against death penalty 10.10.2007

[**Pakistan**

- PAKISTAN TIME UK observes World Day against death penalty
- THE POST World observes anti-death penalty Day – EU calls for abolishing capital punishment worldwide

[**The Philippines**

- BULATLAT QUEZON CITY Distressed OFWs, relatives call to save Ronario on World Day against death penalty

[**South Korea**

- THE HANKYOREH World Day against the Death Penalty 11/10/2007

AUSTRALIA & NEW-ZELAND

[**Australia**

- ABC NEWS EU voices concerns over death penalty
- SYDNEY MORNING HERALD Lawyer takes aim on death penalty 11.10.2007 Killing undertaken by the state is still killing 13.10.2007
- THE AGE Howard's Bali stance racist: NZ Greens

[**New-Zeland**

- HAWKE'S BAY TODAY Victims' conference hailed 13.10.2007
- HERALD NZ NZ backs worldwide ban on death penalty 10.10.2007
- INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE New Zealand joins move to seek global death penalty abolition at UN 09.10.2007
- SCOOP Death Penalty Comments An Insult To Victims / Press Release: New Zealand Government NZ behind UN resolution to abolish death penalty / A Death Penalty-Free World! Prime Minister & Amnesty International launch new initiative 10.10.2007 / EU Declaration Against The Death Penalty
- TVNZ NZ in push to abolish death penalty

INTERNATIONAL

- INQUIRER EU lawmakers hold minute silence for death penalty victims 10.10.2007
- JURIST France ratifies European rights convention protocol to abolish death penalty 10.10.2007
- BBC MUNDO Europa combate la pena de muerte 10.10.2007
- EXPATICA Rights groups stage mock Iranian hanging in Paris 11.10.2007
- NEWS PRESS Peine de mort: des condamnés à mort innocents témoigneront devant les Nations unies 15.10.2007
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- THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE New Zealand joins move to seek global death penalty abolition at UN 09.10.2007
- UN RADIO Interview of Mrs Souhayr Belhassen 15.10.2007
- EARTH TIME Europe leads World Day against Death Penalty 10.10.2007

- IPS NEWS EP President Pöttering calls for abolition of the death penalty in the presence of freed Bulgarian medics 11.10.2007 / Death penalty: Guarded optimism for moratorium vote 11.10.2007
- DIGITAL JOURNAL World Day against death penalty : international pressures rise
- ZENIT Fiacat « La peine de mort est inhumaine », réaffirme la présidente – Journée mondiale contre la peine de mort 08.10.2007
- WORLD PRESS REVIEW Iran – Public executions signal new wave of suppression 09.10.2007

FILMS & DOCUMENTARIES BROADCAST FOR THE WORLD DAY AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

MTV France: Broadcasting of a spot against the death penalty on three major channels (MTV Pulse, MTV et MTV Idol)

Streaming movies on internet, on You Tube and Daily Motion:

- Movie of the World Coalition's press conference in New York:
http://www.dailymotion.com/search/peine+de+mort/video/x3atck_new-york-conference_politics
- TV Reportages of Rue 89 on the event organised in Paris for the World Day, Bastille's place:
http://www.dailymotion.com/search/peine+de+mort/video/x36hmj_manifestation-contre-la-peine-de-mo_politics
http://www.dailymotion.com/search/peine+de+mort/video/x36hd4_interview-de-patrick-baudouin-fidh
- Movie of the Iranian Communist Party on the event organised for the World Day in Vancouver and interview on the death penalty in Iran: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_GR6zDqIgMY
- For the daily English Show, broadcasting of a film by the Acadia University (Nova Scotia, Canada), Interviews of the students on the death penalty thematic.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0nWlX35Vuw0>
- Personal movies of an Internet user, Fixhist, broadcasted for the World Day:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U9BSgKcNfA8>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxnHhPdruyl>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubhm5hZgsrv>
- Movie of Amnesty International "Abolish the death Penalty Worldwide"
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QunkYVpaAdo>
- Movie of the organization Australian's Against Capital Punishment (lors du Artists and Academics Forum, 09/10/2007): speech of Father Franck Brennan on death penalty:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dab6hlnyTqg>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u1Joap3wgQc>
- Zari Azli speaks about the death penalty in Iran, at the occasion of the event organised in Vancouver for the World Day:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjIV5d5ORvs>
- Abbas Mandegar speaks about the death penalty in Iran, at the occasion of the event organised in Vancouver for the World Day:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KADw5PLfQkw>
- The Internet user Tristao (France) filmed the fake hanging organised Bastille's place in Paris, for the World Day:
http://www.dailymotion.com/relevance/search/journ%C3%A9e+mondiale+peine+de+mort/video/x36iwb_journee-mondiale-contre-la-peine-de

Supreme Master TV : Broadcasting of a one hour long documentary on death penalty, with images of several mobilizations, interviews of actors of the fight for abolition

THE WCADP MEMBERS ON 10TH OCTOBER 2007

Further information on World Coalition' members available on the website:
www.worldcoalition.org

[**Executive Secretariat**

Ensemble contre la peine de mort (ECPM) - France

197/199 avenue Pierre Brossolette
92120 Montrouge, France
Tel: + 33 1 5721 2273
Fax: + 33 1 5721 2274
www.abolition.fr

Collectif Unitaire National de Soutien à Mumia Abu-Jamal - France

43, boulevard de Magenta
75010 Paris
Tel: +331 53 38 99 99
Cell Claude Guillaumaud-Pujol:
+33 (0) 6 81 77 54 34
Fax: +331 40 40 90 98
www.mumiabujamal.net

[**Members of the Steering Committee**

Amnesty International International Secretariat (AI) – United Kingdom

Peter Benenson House
1 Easton Street
London WC1X 0DW
United Kingdom
Tel: + 44 (0) 20 7413 5944 (Piers)
Tel: + 44 (0) 20 7413 5943 (Asunta)
Fax: + 44 171 956 11 57
www.amnesty.org

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

Comité des Observateurs des Droits de l'Homme (CODHO) - DRC

Immeuble Veve Center, 1^{er} Etage, L. 4
2, Rue Bongandanga, Q/Anciens Combattants
C/ Kasa-Vubu, Kinshasa
B.P: 20 Kinshasa 7, R.D. Congo

Comunità di Sant'Egidio - Italy

Piazza S.Egidio 3/a
00153 Roma - Italia
Tel: + 39 06 585 661-3
Cell: + 39 335 72 63 641
Fax: + 39 06 58 00 197
www.santegidio.org/it/pdm/index.htm

Paris Bar - France

Ordre des Avocats à la Cour de Paris
(International relations)
11, place Dauphine
75053 Paris Cedex 01
France
Tel: + 33 1 44 32 48 48
Fax: + 33 1 46 34 77 65
www.avocatparis.org/

Conférence Internationale des Barreaux (CIB) - France

2, avenue Hoche
75008 Paris
France
Tel: +331 40 53 10 10
+331 40 53 10 20
<http://www.cib.asso.fr/>

Culture pour la Paix et la Justice - DRC
N° 278, avenue des Mandariniers,
Commune de la gombe, Ville de Kinshasa
B.P: 12369 Kinshasa I
République Démocratique du Congo
Cell: + 243 998 18 03 19

Death Penalty Focus – United States
870 Market Street - Suite 859
San Francisco CA 94102
USA
Tel: +1 415 243 0143
Cell: +1 415 290 0410
Fax: +1 415 243 0994
www.deathpenalty.org
www.californiamoratorium.org

**Fédération internationale des ligues
des droits de l'Homme - France**
17 passage Main d'Or
75011 Paris
France
Tel: + 33 1 4 344 12 76
Fax: +33 1 43 55 18 80
www.fidh.org

**Fédération Internationale de l'Action des
Chrétiens pour l'abolition de la Torture
(FIACAT) - France**
27 rue de Maubeuge
75009 Paris
France
Tel: + 33 1 42 80 01 60
Fax: +33 1 42 80 20 89
www.fiakat.org

Fédération Syndicale unitaire (FSU) - France
Francis Barbe francis.barbe@snuipp.fr
104 rue Romain Rolland
93260 Les Lilas
Tel: 01 41 63 27 30
Fax: 01 41 63 27 31
www.fsu-fr.org/

**Mothers Against the Death Penalty -
Uzbekistan**
Tashkent- Hamza
Raion-domv 27 ku 58
Massib Riezi
Uzbekistan
Tel: + 998 371 169 38 80

**Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights
(MVFHR) – United States**
2161 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02140
Tel: + 1 617 491 9600
www.murdervictimsfamilies.org

**National Association of Criminal Defence
Lawyers (NACDL) – United States**
1150 18th St. NW, # 950
Washington DC 20036
USA
Tel: +1 202 872-8600
Fax: +1 202 872-8690
www.nacdl.org

**National Lawyers Guild (NLG) – United
States**
National Office
132 Nassau Street, RM 922
New York NY 10038
USA
Tel: 212 679 5100 ext 11
Fax: 212-679-2811
www.nlg.org

**Observatoire Marocain des Prisons (OMP) -
Morocco**
10, rue des Batignolles
Quartier Bélveder
Casablanca
Maroc
Tel and fax: +212 022 24 97 52

**Organisation marocaine des droits humains
(OMDH) - Morocco**

24 avenue de France
Agdal – Rabat
Maroc
Tel: + 212 777 00 60; + 212 227 30 49
Cell: + 212 6 10 94 444
<http://www.omdh.org/>

**Penal Reform International (PRI) – United
Kingdom**

Unit 450, The Bon Marche Centre
241-251 Ferndale Road
London SW9 8BJ
UK
Tel: + 44 (0) 20 7924 9853 / 9575
Fax: + 44 (0) 20 7924 9697
www.penalreform.org

Region Toscane - Italy

Via Cavour 18
50129 Firenze, Italia
Tel: 0554384886
Fax: 4384884
www.regione.toscana.it

[**Other members of the Coalition**

ACAT France

7, rue Georges Lardennois
75019 Paris
France
Tel: + 33 1 40 40 42 43
Fax: + 33 1 40 40 42 44
www.acat.asso.fr

**Arab Coalition Against the Death Penalty -
Jordan**

Al Abdali, Al Sharaf Building 4th Floor, 212524
Amman, JORDAN
Tel: + 962 6 46 55 045 / + 962 6 795151590
Fax: + 962 6 46 55 043
www.achrs.org

Association for the Right to Live - Iran

75 Ravanpoor Al . Jordan BLVD.
1966834533
Tehran, Iran
Tel and fax: + 98 21 20 43 199
Cell: +98 912 112 70 49

**American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
– United States**

1501 Cherry St.
Philadelphia, PA 19102
USA
Tel: +1 215 241 7130
Cell: + 1 240 603 5443
Fax: +1 215 241 7119
www.afsc.org

**Association marocaine des droits humains
(AMDH) - Morocco**

B. P 1740 P.P
Rabat Maroc
Tel: + 212 377 309 61
Fax: + 212 377 388 51

Bahrain Human Rights Society

P.O. Box 30014
Budaya
Kingdom of Bahrain
Tel: + 973 39674 741
Fax: + 973 17 82 68 36

Center for Prisoners' Rights (CPR) - Japan

c/o Kikuta Law Office
3-28-13, Raffine Ochanomizu, Kanda-
Ogawamachi,
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
Japan
Tel and Fax: + 81 3 3259 1558

**Centre Marocain des Droits de l'Homme -
Morocco**

403, Hay annahda2, extension III
B.P: 1804, Rabat R.P
Maroc
Tel: + 212 66 14 19 73; + 212 68 6811 38; +
212 37 63 10 93
Fax: + 212 37 67 97 92
www.cmdh.org

**Coalizione italiana contro la pena di morte -
Italy**

C.P. 39
80078 Pozzuoli (NA)
Italia
www.coalit.org/

**Collectif des Organisations des Jeunes
Solidaires du Congo-Kinshasa (COJESKI-
DRC)**

N° 22, Avenue Cimbushi, Quartier Motel FIKIN,
Commune de Limeté
Ville de Kinshasa
République Démocratique du Congo
Tel.: + 243.998.121.369
Fax: 0033.821.188.448
cojeski_rdc@yahoo.com;
cojeski.rdc@societecivile.cd
www.cojeski.org

Comitato Paul Rougeau - Italy

c/o Guaschino
Corso Brianza 12
10153 Torino
Italia
Tel: + 39 011 89 91 482

**Comité Syndical Francophone de
l'Éducation et de la Formation - France**
SNES

46, avenue d'Ivry
75647 Paris Cedex 13
Tel: + 33 1 40 63 28 32
Fax: + 33 1 40 63 28 31

Conseil National pour les Libertés en Tunisie

4, rue Abou Dhabi
1000 Tunis
Tunisie
Phone / Fax: (216 71) 240907
contact@cnltunisie.org
sbensedrine@yahoo.com
www.cnltunisie.org

CURE – United States

National CURE
6 Tolman Road,
Peaks Island, ME 04108
USA
Tel: 888 255 6196.
Fax: 202-318-9164
<http://www.curenational.org/>

**Fédération des Etudiants Libéraux (FEL) -
Belgium**

Av. de la Toison d'Or 84
1060 Bruxelles
Belgique
Tel: 02.500.50.55 / 0495.125.998
Fax: 02.500.50.56
<http://etudiantsliberaux.blogspot.com/>

Forum 90 – Japan

2-24-13, Akasaka,
Minato-ku, Tokyo
Postal code:107-0052
Japan

**Forum Marocain pour la Vérité et Justice -
Morocco**

6 bis, rue Khadija Bent-Khouiled
Casablanca
Maroc
Tel: + 212 (0) 22 48 70 33 (Boutaina
Elmakoudi); + 212 60 29 34 87;
+ 212 10 32 04 79
Fax: 212 (0) 22 48 28 45

**Foundation for Human Rights Initiative
(FHRI) - Uganda**

Human Rights House
Plot 1853, Lulume Road, Nsambya
P.O Box 11027,
Kampala, Uganda
Tel.: + 256 41 51 02 63 / 51 04 98 / 51 02 76
Fax: + 256 41 51 04 98
www.fhri.or.ug

**International Helsinki Federation for Human
Rights (IHF) - Austria**

Wickenburggasse 14/7,
A-1080 Vienna
Austria
Tel: + 43 1 408 88 22 35
Fax:+ 43 1 408 88 22 50
<http://www.ihf-hr.org/>

**Iranian Human Rights Activists Groups in EU
and North America - Canada**

60C, 1E Avenue
LaSalle, H8P 2E5
PQ, Canada
Tel: + 1 514 365 9212 (Canada); + 46 704 124
500 (Sweden)
www.hriran.org

**Journey of Hope...From Violence to Healing
– United States**

P.O. Box 210390
Anchorage, AK 99521-0390
Tel: + 1 882 92 44483
Cell: +1 305 775 5823
Fax: +1 907 333 0431
www.journeyofhope.org

Lifespark - Switzerland

PO Box
CH-4002 Bâle
Suisse
Tel and fax: + 41 21 801 3077
www.lifespark.org

Ligue des Droits de l'Homme (LDH) - France

138 rue Marcadet
75018 Paris
Tel: + 331 56 55 51 00
Fax: +331 42 55 51 21
www.ldh-france.org/

**Ligue Ivoirienne des Droits de l'Homme
(LIDHO) – Ivory Coast**

Président
08 BP 2056 Abidjan 08
Cote d'Ivoire
Tel: 22 44 35 01
lidho@aviso.ci

Lutte pour la Justice - France

216 chemin de Figarol
82170 Pompignan
+ 336 76 41 57 77
www.lpj-france.net/

**Mouvement contre le Racisme et pour
l'Amitié entre les Peuples (MRAP) - France**

43 boulevard Magenta
75010 Paris
France
Tel: + 331 53 38 99 99
Fax: + 331 40 40 90 98
www.mrap.asso.fr

National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (NCADP) – United States

1705 DeSales Street, NW
5th Floor
Washington DC 20036-4405
USA
Tel: +1 202 331 4090 ext. 6
Fax: +1 202 331 4099
www.nacdp.org

Observatoire National des Prisons - DRC

11, avenue Hippodrome, 1230 Bukavu, RDC
Tel: + 243 997722048

Ordine Provinciale dei Medici-Chirurghi e degli odontoiatri di Firenze - Italy

Via Giulio Cesare Vanini 15
50129 Firenze
Italia
Tel: + 39 55 49 65 22
Fax: + 39 55 48 10 45
<http://85.35.144.226/start.asp>

Organisation Mondiale contre la Torture (OMCT) - Switzerland

OMCT International Secretariat
PO Box 21
8, rue du Vieux-Billard
CH-1211 Geneva 8
Switzerland
Phone: + 41 22 809 4939
Fax: + 41 22 809 4929
omct@omct.org

Ordre des Barreaux Francophones et Germanophones de Belgique (OBFG) - Belgium

65, avenue de la Toison d'Or
1060 Bruxelles
Belgique
Tel: +32 2 648 20 98
Fax: +32 2 648 11 67

Palestinian Centre for Human Rights - ATP

29 Omar al-Mukhtar St
PO Box 1328
Gaza City
Gaza Strip via Israel
Tel: + 972 8 282 4776
Fax: + 972 8 282 5893
<http://www.pchrgaza.ps/>

Pax Christi Uvira asbl - DRC

7, Av. P. E. Lumumba
Uvira / Sud – Kivu
République Démocratique du Congo
Tel: + 243 81 32 02 237; + 257 79 97 64 05
<http://www.paxchristi.net>

People of Faith Against the Death Penalty – United States

110 W. Main St., Suite 2-G
Carrboro, NC 27510 - USA
Tel: +1 919 933 7567
Cell: +1 919 622 1739
Fax: +1 919 933 5611
www.pfadp.org

Puerto Rican Coalition against the Death Penalty – Puerto-Rico

César Gonzalez 513, Hato Rey,
Puerto Rico 00926

Rights and Democracy – United States

1001, boul. de Maisonneuve Est
Bureau 1100, Montréal (Québec)
H2L 4P9
Canada
Tel: +1 514 283 60 73
Fax: +1 514 283 3792
www.ichrdd.ca

SOS Attentats- SOS Terrorisme - France

Hôtel national des Invalides
75700 Paris - cedex 07
Tel: + 33 1 45 55 41 41
Fax: +33 1 45 55 55 55
www.sos-attentats.org

**Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty
(TAEDP) - Taiwan**

Taiwan Association for Human Right (TAHR)
9F, No.3, Lane 25, Sec.3,
Hsin-sheng S. Rd.,
Taipei 106, Taiwan
Tel: +886-2-27262620 / +886-930-019345
/:+886-2-23639787
Fax:+886-2-23636102
www.deathpenalty.org.tw

**Texas Coalition to abolish the death penalty
(TCADP) – United States**

602 W 7th St. # 202
78701 Austin, TX
USA
Tel: +1 512 441 1808
www.tcadp.org/

Ville de Andoian - Spain

Andoaingo Udala
Goikoplaza z/g
C.I.F. P 2001000 E
Spain
Tel: + 943 30 08 30
Fax: + 943 30 08 28

Ville de Braine-l'Alleud - Belgium

Administration communale
Grand'Place Baudouin Ier, 3
1420 Braine l'Alleud
Belgique
Tel: + 32 475 416 045
www.braine-lalleud.be/

Ville de Dijon - France

Service des relations internationales
BP1510 21033 Dijon Cedex
France
Tel: 03 80 74 59 97
Fax: 03 80 74 71 08
<http://www.dijon.fr/>

Ville de Matera – Italy

Via Aldo Moro
75100 Matera
Italia
Tel: + 39 08 35 24 13 16
Fax: + 39 08 35 33 53 55
www.comune.matera.it/

Ville de Reggio Emilia - Italy

Piazza Prampolini, 1
42100 Reggio Emilia
Italia
Tel: + 39 (0) 522 54 17 39
Fax: + 39 (0) 522 49 67 72
www.municipio.re.it/retecivica/urp/home.nsf

Ville de Venise - Italy

Relazioni Internazionali e Politiche Comunitarie
Comune di Venezia
San Polo 1098
30125 Venezia
Italia
Tel: + 39 041 274 9640
Fax: + 39 041 270 0890
www.comune.venezia.it/

[Notes]

- 1 Although Liberia signed the protocol before abolishing the death penalty in its legislation.
- 2 Declaration of the minister of Justice before the Commission on Human Rights of the United Nations (15th March 2005); Declaration of the President of the Moroccan Consultative Human Rights Council (CCDH), M. Driss Benzekri, on the occasion of the 3rd World Congress against the death penalty; Recommendation of the Equity and Reconciliation court.
- 3 The President of the Consultative Human Rights Council made declarations at the 3rd World Congress against the death penalty, which suggested the prospect of imminent abolition. Also, the minister of Justice publicly took up a position in favour of abolition and the revision of the Penal Code.
- 4 Muhammad Sayd Tantawi, grand sheik of the prestigious Islamic university Al-Azhar. According to him, the inclusion of the death penalty in the Egyptian legal system does not exclude the possibility of defending human rights.
- 5 In February 2003 the national department of prisons proposed the abolition of the death penalty on the grounds that it traumatises the prison guards, and asked for it to be replaced by life imprisonment.
- 6 Detail of the initiatives in the appendix, by country and by town
- 7 These projects aim to encourage debate, to support educational projects and to promote strategies of substitution to the death penalty to reduce crime. They aim also to reinforce the rights of prisoners, as well as to train professionals to defend them.
Source: http://ec.europa.eu/news/external_relations/070620_1_fr.htm
Source: [https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=PR622\(2007\)&Language=lanFrench&Ver=original&Site=DC&BackColorInternet=F5CA75&BackColorIntranet=F5CA75&BackColorLogged=A9BACE](https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=PR622(2007)&Language=lanFrench&Ver=original&Site=DC&BackColorInternet=F5CA75&BackColorIntranet=F5CA75&BackColorLogged=A9BACE)
- 8 The Polish government wanted to change the European Day against the Death Penalty into a "Day in Defence of Life", to include a ban on euthanasia and abortion, which was rejected by the EU.
- 9 The Law of Talion (or Lex Talionis) consists in a fair reciprocity of crime and punishment; it is summarized in the expression "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth".
- 10 He has since been freed on health grounds.
- 11 Detail of the initiatives in the appendix, by country and by town.
- 12 Joined by telephone
- 13 Joined by telephone
- 14 Member organisation of the Steering Committee of the World Coalition.
- 15 This total does not include the signatures collected by ACAT France which were collected in partnership with Amnesty International France and so could not be part of a separate calculation.
- 16 Anti Death Penalty Asia Network
- 17 Save Marilou Ronario Movement, Migrante International, GABRIELA, Kenneth Causon Movement, Baranguay Holy Spirit.
- 18 Marilou Ronario, a Filipina domestic worker, was sentenced to death in 2005 in Kuwait, having been found guilty of stabbing her employer to death. The Court of Cassation confirmed the sentence on 27th November 2007: Marilou Ronario was then at risk of imminent execution pending the signature of an order by Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah.
Source: www.worldcoalition.org
- 19 Broadening of the application of the death penalty to include people found guilty of raping a child of less than nine years old or a person with a mental or physical handicap, or a minor of more than nine years old whom they then killed, as well as including people found guilty of raping and killing a child of less than seven years old.
- 20 Cf. in the appendix the non-exhaustive list of the global press review
- 21 "In Iran, even juvenile delinquents are executed"; G.P.; 10/10/2007
- 22 Article of 10/10/2007
- 23 "The death penalty is still popular in the United States"; 10/10/2007
- 24 "The Council of Europe establishes a Day against the Death Penalty" 08/10/2007
- 25 "Europe fights capital punishment"; 10/10/2007
- 26 "Bringing hope to death row"; 10/10/2007
- 27 "Report at Kenitra prison: the death penalty in Morocco"; Abdelhak Najib; 10/10/2007
- 28 For example, "Iran is the only country that executes via hanging in public: Piers Bannister"; Soheila Vahdati; Iranian.com; 10/10/2007.

- 29 See "World Day against the Death Penalty: The Iteka League appeals to parliament to adopt the government bill to abolish this penalty"; 10/10/2007
- 30 See for example: "Death penalty – the Congolese abolitionists support the UN" Le Phare, Kinshasa, 10/10/2007; "DRC – death penalty: summary of the abolitionist struggle"; Radio Okapi; 10/10/2007;
- 31 See "Radicarán en la ONU resolución contra pena de muerte", Primera Hora; 04/10/07
- 32 See for example "Another call goes out for Barbados to abolish the death penalty"; Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (Barbados); 10/10/07; "Of crime and punishment" Trinidad & Tobago Express (Trinidad & Tobago)
- 33 See "Tinkering with death", Boston Globe, 12/07/2007
- 34 See "Death penalty: Guarded Optimism for Moratorium Vote", Inter press service, 11/10/2007; "Coalition Urges UN to Call For Moratorium on Executions", Voice of America, 11/10/07
- 35 "NZ in push to abolish death penalty" TVNZ, New Zealand; 10/10/07; "New Zealand joins move to seek global death penalty abolition at UN" INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE; 09/10/07
- 36 "Chen lauds Marazziti's efforts, reaffirms goal to end death penalty"; Taiwan News Online; 17/10/07; "Taiwan urged to join movement for death penalty moratorium", Taiwan News, 17/10/07
- 37 "Candlelight vigil against death penalty"; The Hindu, 11/10/2007; "Why death penalty in a civilised society?" Merinews, 17/09/2007
- 38 "UK Observes World Day against Death Penalty"; Pakistan Time, 11/10/07; "World observes Anti-Death Penalty Day | EU calls for abolishing capital punishment worldwide", The Post
- 39 <http://blog.autresmondes.eu/post/2007/10/10/Journee-mondiale-contre-la-peine-de-mort>
- 40 <http://moidanstousmesetats.blogspot.com/archive/2007/10/05/tous-pour-l-abolition-de-la-peine-de-mort.html>
- 41 <http://nicolasblain.hautetfort.com/archive/2007/10/10/10-octbre-journee-mondiale-contre-la-peine-de-mort.html>
- 42 <http://mebehindcamera.blogspot.com/2007/10/world-day-against-death-penalty.html>
- 43 <http://libertes.parti-socialiste.fr/2007/10/10/journee-mondiale-contre-la-peine-de-mort/>
- 44 <http://alainhubler.wordpress.com/2007/10/10/journee-mondiale-contre-la-peine-de-mort/>
- 45 http://www.humanrightsblog.org/ua/2007/10/world_day_against_the_death_pe.html
- 46 Two resolutions relating to the death penalty had been adopted without a vote in 1971 and 1977, reaffirming the right of every individual to life (see below)
- 47 See in the appendix for the complete and unabridged text of the resolution of 18th December 2007.
- 48 See in the appendix for the detail of votes by country
- 49 Articles 10 and 13
- 50 (A/61/PV.81).
- 51 Bangladesh, Brunei, China, North Korea, South Korea, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.