

# 2020 WORLD DAY REPORT

**Access  
to counsel:  
A matter of life  
or death**

10 October 2020 – World Day Against the Death Penalty

## Why Have a World Day on the Right to Effective Legal Representation?

The aim of the **World Coalition Against the Death Penalty** ('World Coalition') is to reinforce the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty. Its ultimate objective is to achieve universal abolition of the death penalty. In those countries which still use the death penalty, the World Coalition is working to reduce its use, invoking in particular, the respect of international standards. Since the creation of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty in 2002, significant progress towards the universal abolition of the death penalty has been achieved. Numerous states which maintained the death penalty have abolished it in practice or have restricted its use.

Every year on World Day, the World Coalition highlights one problematic aspect of the death penalty. **On 10 October 2020, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty and abolitionists around the world celebrated the 18th World Day Against the Death Penalty.**

The 18th World Day Against the Death Penalty explored the theme "Access to Counsel: A Matter of Life or Death" in light of the continued execution of individuals who struggle to have adequate support from the State (in having access to a trained, experienced attorney, to have adequate time to mount a defense, etc), who consequently also face their challenges in the judicial system. Having access to qualified and effective representation at all stages of a trial is important to ensure due process and can spell the difference between life and death for people facing capital punishment.

World Day 2020's **main objective was to raise public awareness on the right to effective legal representation during all stages [of arrest and legal proceedings] and the consequences that can arise when this is not provided, to convince people that the death penalty should be abolished.** This theme avoided placing the onus on the 'bad lawyer' or celebrating the 'miracle worker lawyer' and instead concentrated on State's obligations to provide effective legal representation.

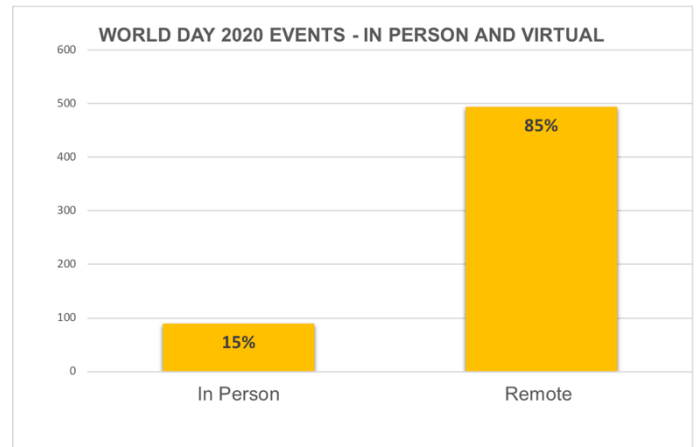
The World Day's Secondary objectives included: supporting abolitionist activists by sharing advocacy tools and information; encouraging mobilization and media attention; and working with organizations, bar associations that support the right to a fair trial, quality of legal assistance, and working closely with legal professionals to achieve that aim.

# Table of Contents

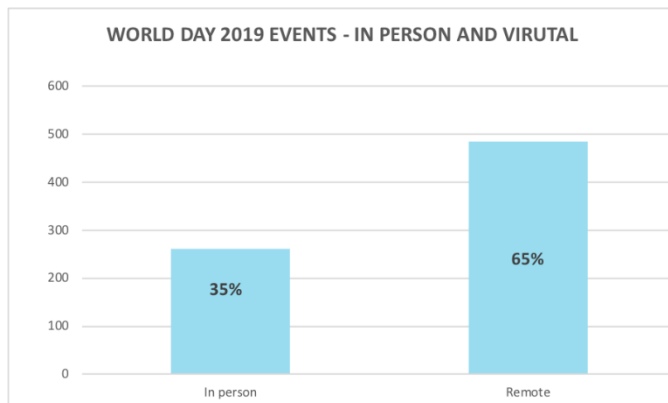
<b>[1]    <i>Limitations Facing World Day 2020: COVID-19</i></b> .....	<b>4</b>
1) Examples of cancelled or significantly modified activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.....	4
<b>[2]    <i>Main Objective: Raise Public Awareness on the Right to Effective Legal Representation During All Stages of Arrest and Legal Proceedings, to Convince People that the Death Penalty Should be Abolished</i></b> .....	<b>6</b>
1) Institutional Resonance of the 2020 World Day .....	6
2) Awareness-raising work was undertaken by the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty:	7
3) 2020 World Day Media Coverage .....	7
4) Social Media Coverage of 2020 World Day .....	9
<b>[3]    <i>Supporting Advocacy in Favor of Abolition by Creating and Sharing Mobilization Tools</i></b>	<b>11</b>
1) Creating and Sharing Mobilization Tools for the 18th World Day .....	11
2) Distribution .....	11
<b>[4]    <i>Encouraging the Organization of Local Initiatives and Strengthening Abolitionist Civil Society</i></b> .....	<b>12</b>
1) Breakdown of World Day Events in a Range of Countries and Regions. ....	12
2) Worldwide Mobilization to Raise Awareness on the Death Penalty .....	13
Americas .....	13
Asia .....	14
Europe .....	14
Middle East and North Africa .....	15
Sub-Saharan Africa .....	15
<b>[5]    <i>Working with Organizations, Bar Associations that Advocate Support to Fair Trial, Quality Legal Assistance and Work Closely with Legal Professionals to Achieve That Aim</i></b>	<b>16</b>

## [1] Limitations Facing World Day 2020: COVID-19

2020 presented a series of international challenges with the unexpected arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic. The recorded number of World Day events, **574**, was greatly reduced in comparison to previous years; World Day 2019 recorded a total of **746** events, and the year before that in 2018 hosted **476** events. This drop-in engagement is understood to be due to organizations and institutions that were forced to cancel in-person gatherings and traditional mobilization events because of local and national social distancing policies.



Where possible, many events and demonstrations in 2020 moved to online platforms. In 2020, **85% of World Day events** were held remotely<sup>1</sup>, through social media, Zoom conferences, webinars (as compared to **65% of events** that were virtual in 2019). Additionally, gathering information on events was more challenging since virtual events were typically less covered by the traditional and online media. When gathering and providing the data for the 2019 World Day, the World Coalition Secretariat's team dedicated to finding these statistics was doubled in comparison to 2020. This can be noted to have a further possible effect on the 18<sup>th</sup> World Day's quantity of data.



However, moving to a virtual space to hold events was not necessarily an option for all, given the issue of reliable access to the internet in certain parts of the world. An additional complication to the development of World Day was the slow-down of the international postal system as social distancing made efficient postal work complicated. This hindered World Day mobilization kits and resources for activities from arriving on time.

- 1) Examples of cancelled or significantly modified activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic

**Amnesty International** confirmed some of their activities were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; "*many Amnesty International [AI] sections could not organize public activities or take actions that involved gathering people because of COVID-19 government restrictions in their countries. For example, AI Belgium had planned to organize a jogging course in Brussels linking the embassies of the top 10 executing countries in the world, but this was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.*"

Large restrictions placed on planned activities also took place, such as with Uganda's **Foundation for Human Rights Initiative**, during their outreach event to prisoners on death

<sup>1</sup> Remote event: an event held from afar without the need for people to gather in person. For this category we include online events such as webinars, live streams, social media campaigns and informative videos as well as traditionally remote activities such as public statements, radio and television broadcasts, poster and brochure posting and letter writing campaigns.

row; “COVID-19 impacted on our activities greatly, we could not host many people on the 10th, on our solidarity visit we could not interact with the prisoners, also only two members were allowed to visit the prisoners unlike the previous years, and prices were hiked limiting us from getting several items for prisoners.”

The **German Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty** found the restrictions even impacted the sharing of abolitionist material on World Day, “Some public libraries did not even accept free books and material via standard mail [because of sanitary measures].”

Other limitations aside from physical restrictions were presented throughout organizing a World Day event during the pandemic, including the breadth of media coverage. The **Cornell Center on the Death Penalty**, an American abolitionist organization, found the pandemic and US election news too overwhelming. World Day “perhaps would have gotten more attention” were news cycles not saturated with pandemic and election news.

Despite this, some organizations were able to adapt and overcome the immediate limitations. Many member organizations took their advocacy online by hosting webinars, Zoom events, social media campaigns, and distributing online petitions instead of relying on traditional, in-person gatherings.

Palestinian group **Human Rights and Democracy Media Centre ‘SHAMS’** stated that they view “the fight against [the] death penalty as a fundamental principle in its human rights identity since [SHAMS]’ establishment, which is reflected in the determination to revive the International Day Against the Death Penalty annually through a wide range of activities. This year, with the imposition of the policies of closure and social distancing, “SHAMS” dealt with flexibility with the events.” Their activities included a virtual exhibition, publishing a position assessment paper on the Palestinian parliamentary elections and their link to anti-death penalty legislation, and disseminating thematic awareness-raising videos.

The **Advocates for Human Rights** hosted a Zoom webinar to discuss the World Day theme of access to legal counsel. Many organizations took the opportunity to host similar events.

In very few countries, there were no restrictive COVID-19 policies which meant that World Day could legally proceed as normal. In Sierra Leone, **Society for Human Rights & Development Organization** saw no impact in the actions they aimed to take for the 18<sup>th</sup> World Day, producing a “one-hour radio talk show across 17 judicial districts of Sierra Leone.” Radio broadcasts were a popular way for organizations and journalists to broadcast World Day this year. This was particularly true across the African continent, with 60% of the recorded radio broadcasts covering World Day globally coming from Africa.

Overall, there was a significant difference in how the 18<sup>th</sup> World Day was celebrated in comparison to previous years where in-person gatherings were prioritized. In many ways, the scope of action for World Day was reduced, compared to past years where a variety of in-person and virtual events could be easily planned. However, a strong effort of innovative attempts to upkeep the advocacy and commemoration of the day was made by member organizations all over the world.

## [2] Main Objective: Raise Public Awareness on the Right to Effective Legal Representation During All Stages of Arrest and Legal Proceedings, to Convince People that the Death Penalty Should be Abolished

### 1) Institutional Resonance of the 2020 World Day

The main objective of World Day 2020 was to raise public awareness on the right to effective legal representation during all stages [of arrest and legal proceedings] and the consequences that can arise when this is not provided, to convince people that the death penalty should be abolished. Several intergovernmental and international organizations publicly expressed, in several languages, their opposition to the death penalty on the occasion of World Day, contributing to an international resonance. The awareness-raising and information spreading activities conducted before World Day 2020 by the World Coalition towards institutional representatives bore results.

Across Asia, a multitude of strides were taken towards regional abolition. A significant stride was taken by the Kazakhstan government signing the Second Optional Protocol (OP-2). There was a high-level conference organized by the Kazakh Foreign Ministry dedicated to the 18<sup>th</sup> World Day Against the Death Penalty in which the **Kazakh Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs**, Tileuberdi Mukhtar, spoke out against the death penalty and supported the initiative to create a death-penalty-free zone in Central Asia and Mongolia. He also promoted the country's commitment to upholding the right to life and dignity.

Further east, the **Philippines Commission on Human Rights** and local Philippine NGO<sup>2</sup> Karapatan hosted a webinar entitled "In Defence of the Right to Life: Analysing Factors Affecting Filipino Opinion About the Death Penalty" on World Day the 10 October 2020.

The **African Commission on Human and People's Rights** published a statement through its Working Group on the Death Penalty to join the international community in marking the 18<sup>th</sup> World Day. The statement noted the risk of judicial error when there is a lack of access to effective legal counsel, "*which can cost the life of an innocent person and consequently the violation of the right to life guaranteed by Article 4 of the Charter.*"

The **Inter-American Commission on Human Rights** released a statement calling for the abolition of capital punishment in the Americas to mark World Day 2020. In the statement, the member states of the **Organization of American States** (OAS) were called upon to abolish the death penalty or impose a moratorium on executions. "*The Commission concluded that the death penalty is incompatible with the rights to life, humane treatment, and due process.*"

The **Secretary-General of the Council of Europe** made a joint statement with the **High Representative of the European Union (EU)** on the 18<sup>th</sup> World Day Against the Death Penalty reaffirming their opposition to capital punishment in all circumstances, calling for the universal abolition of the death penalty.

The national governments of many abolitionist countries released press statements expressing their commitment to the cause on World Day 2020. This included a joint local statement on abolition of the death penalty from the **Australian, Canadian, German, Italian,**

---

<sup>2</sup> Non-governmental organization



**Dutch, Romanian, Spanish, Swedish, and Swiss** diplomatic missions in **Zimbabwe**. Also, the **Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs** Sophie Wilmès released a statement underlining Belgium's commitment to the universal abolition of the death penalty. The French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs spokesperson published a statement reiterating France's strong opposition to the death penalty everywhere and in all circumstances, as well as reminding readers it has no deterrent effect, makes judicial errors irreversible, and "often disproportionately targets women, the poor and economically vulnerable."

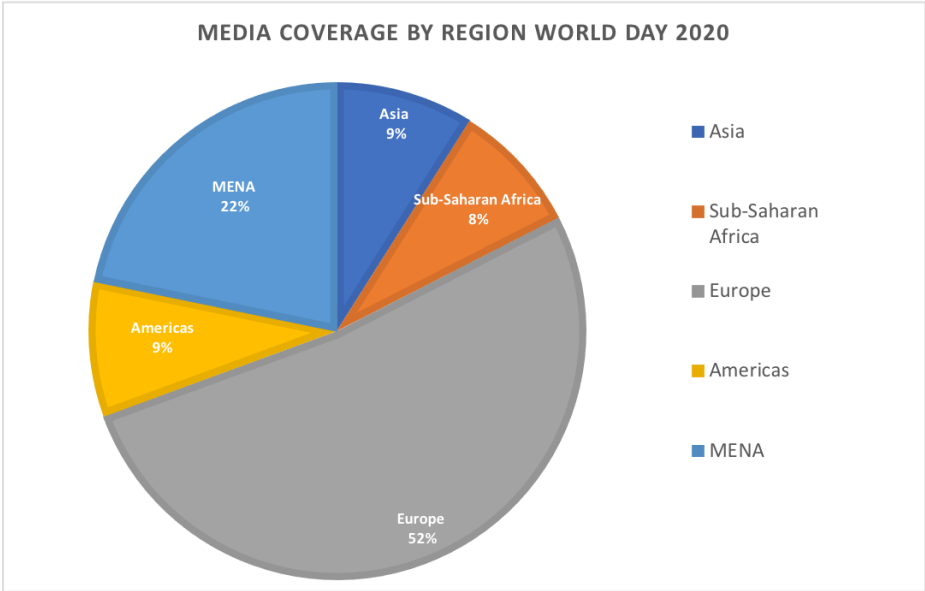
The **Portuguese Minister of State & Foreign Affairs** published a video statement. This statement reaffirmed Portugal's opposition to what they describe as a cruel punishment and strives for universal abolition internationally. **The Minister for Global Affairs in Canada**, François-Philippe Champagne, reiterated Canada's "*strong opposition to the use of the death penalty in all cases, everywhere*" and announced its intention to join the Support Group of **the International Commission Against the Death Penalty**, further strengthening the abolitionist cause at the occasion of the World Day.

2) Awareness-raising work was undertaken by the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty:

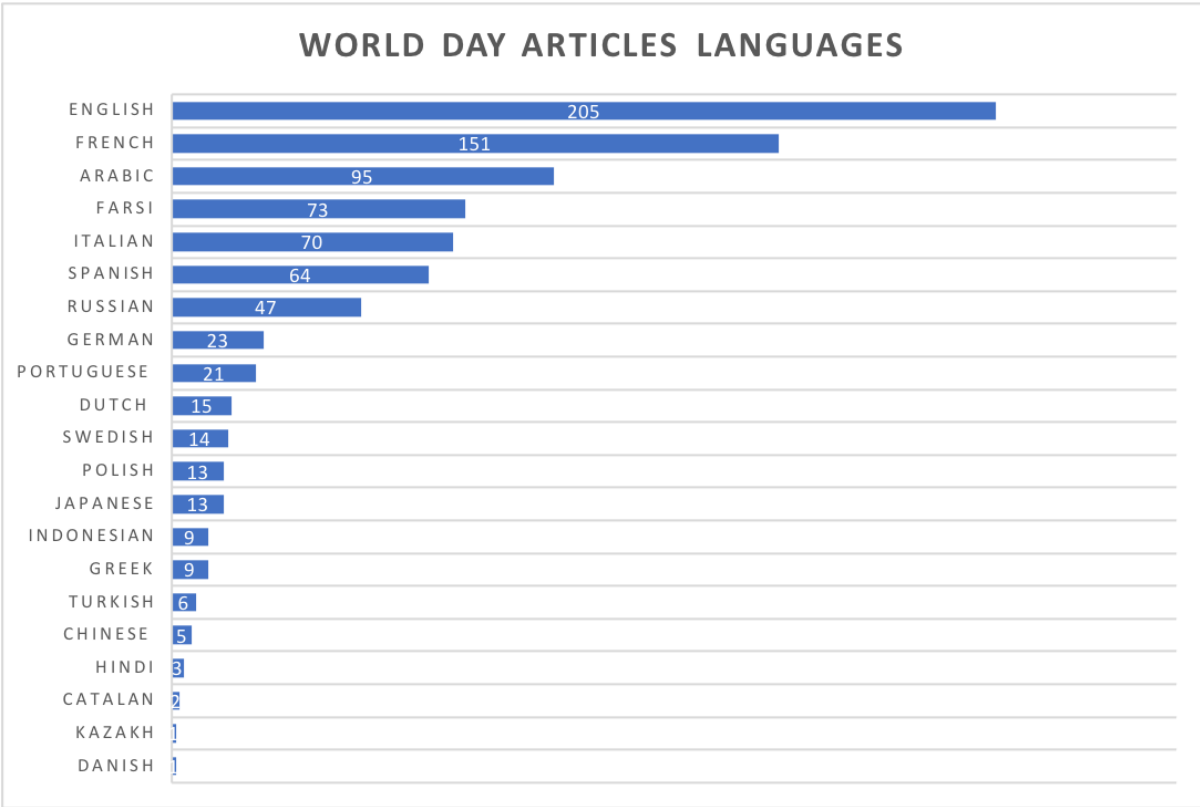
- The World Coalition used Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to carry out a **10-day Social Media campaign**, which featured statistics and facts about abolitionist progress, as well as testimonies from people on death row and judicial experts.
- The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty joined with **the International Bar Association's Human Rights** to release a joint statement on the importance of access to counsel.
- The World Coalition sponsored a public opinion survey developed by **Iran Human Rights** and the **Groupe for Analyzing and Measuring Attitudes in Iran**. The survey was the first of its kind for Iran and its results were released on World Day.
- The World Coalition continued for a second year the **WhatsApp campaign with partners on the African continent**, disseminating abolitionist tools to nearly **3,400** people in their combined networks.
- The World Coalition distributed their Mobilization Kit and World Day 2020 information pack that included professional tools (for judges, defense lawyers, journalists, parliamentarians, and police) co-drafted with the **Advocates for Human Rights, Parliamentarians for Global Action, and Reprieve**.
- The World Coalition dedicated its **newsletter** on 10 July 2020 to calling for action and spreading awareness amongst its networks.

3) 2020 World Day Media Coverage

Media and social media (detailed in the next section) played a crucial role this World Day in the light of restrictions of the pandemic. While the limitations this year were felt, the media coverage held strong with **806** articles in **82** countries covering World Day. By comparison, there was a similar amount in **2019**, with **879** articles in **109** countries, and **693** articles in **100** countries were recorded in **2018**. This shows that, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, media outlets were still fairly engaged with World Day.



Media covering the 18<sup>th</sup> World Day came in various forms and languages. The primary language of most articles collected was English, with **205** documented articles. These articles were published in upwards of **49** countries, from all 5 regions documented in World Coalition reports. Following this was **151** French-language articles. In total, World Day 2020 was covered by media in **21** different languages, as displayed below. Some articles were released in multiple languages, such as the joint declaration by the **High Representative of the European Union and the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe**, which was published in the **24** languages of the European Union.

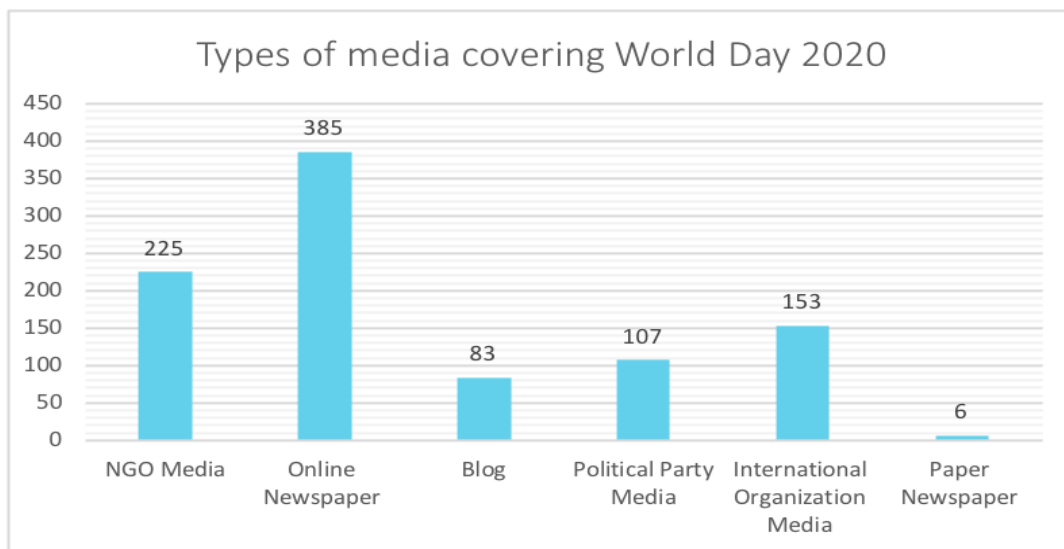




As well as a broad scope of different languages covering World Day, the types of media trends were also quite diverse. This year there was a strong trend of online newspaper outlets publishing articles about the day, events occurring, opinion pieces or statements by local groups. **385** articles of this nature were recorded. The next most popular publications were articles and statements made by the NGO's, including many member organizations, such as **Amnesty International, International Federation of ACATs (FIACAT), Action des chrétiens pour l'abolition de la torture (ACAT), Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM)**, and many more. There were **194** publications of this nature showing solidarity for the World Day as well as promoting events or publications they had organized for the day.

Other varieties of media not mentioned are for instance radio coverage. **3CR** is a community based radio station in Northern Australia and they hosted an hour long segment on the right to legal counsel in the face of capital trials in the name of World Day 2020. Another instance of radio coverage an **RCF Radio** interview with Maurice Capdevielle Darré, a World Coalition member.

The small level of traditional paper newspapers represented in these statistics can be accounted for the fact that it is difficult to gather data on stories in printed newspapers when most research is done from a desk. For articles that were exclusively featured in physical newspapers, World Coalition members and partners must scan or photograph them, if not it will be difficult to track.



The World Day Against the Death Penalty 2020 was the second instance where the World Coalition's Secretariat attempted to track reactions and coverage on social media to better understand the extent of social media's role in promoting the World Day.

#### 4) Social Media Coverage of 2020 World Day

On social media (namely Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter) World Day 2020 was covered extensively. The World Coalition carried out a 10-day social media campaign in the lead up to the 10<sup>th</sup> October. On each day across all World Coalition platforms, **Facebook, Twitter and Instagram**, posts were made featuring statistics and facts about the abolitionist process, testimonies for people on death row as well as lawyers (see Figure 1). The 10-day campaign

made by the World Coalition’s Instagram account (@worldcoalition) in the lead up to October 10<sup>th</sup> made a total of **690 impressions**<sup>3</sup>.

The World Coalition’s English language Twitter page made a significant increase from last year. The period around the 18<sup>th</sup> World Day, the English Twitter page received **20.7k** impressions, double the amount of the 17<sup>th</sup> World Day’s **10,128** impressions. The top tweet earned **3,424** impressions with **106** engagements. The French language Twitter account received **3.8k** impressions over the week of World Day.



FM #EriksenSoreide  
#NoDeathPenalty



Figure 2 - Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs commemorating World Day 2020 on Twitter

presented 3 different case studies on retentionist countries such as Iran, the USA, and Pakistan.<sup>4</sup>

This year’s World Day was celebrated over on YouTube with the publication of over **60 videos**. The videos included news clips, informational videos, interviews, footage of demonstrations and other activities, and video blogs from citizens discussing the theme of World Day.

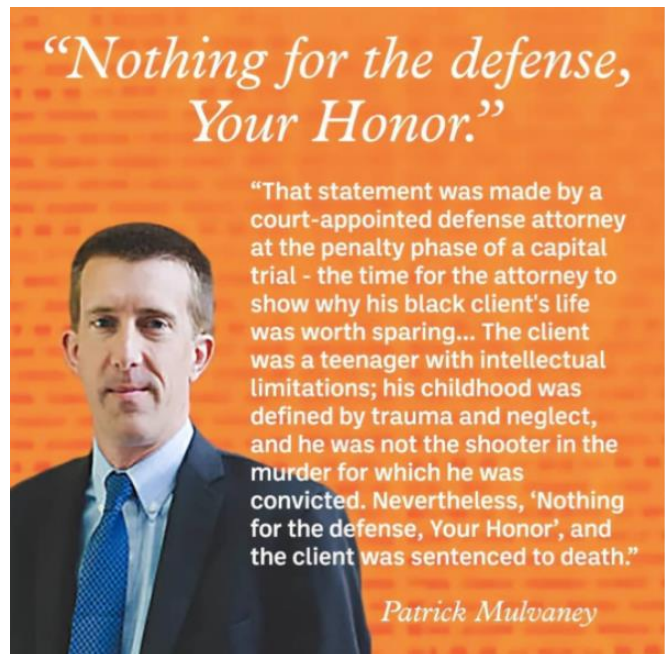


Figure 1- Day 9 of the social media campaign on the @Worldcoalition Instagram

There was a 9,075% increase in Instagram activity and impressions over the week leading up to World Day, with **734** impressions made.

Thousands of posts from civilians, embassies, political figures, and organizations used the hashtag #nodeathpenalty to express support for the abolitionist movement (see Figure 2).

**Monash University**, in collaboration with the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, published an informative video in 9 languages on the abolitionist process, and the importance of legal counsel. The video

<sup>3</sup> Twitter defines ‘impressions’ as the number of times a post or tweet has been seen by users on their timelines or via search results.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dS9K2s6ayW0>

## [3] Supporting Advocacy in Favor of Abolition by Creating and Sharing Mobilization Tools

### 1) Creating and Sharing Mobilization Tools for the 18th World Day

To foster the widest participation possible to the World Day and to strengthen abolitionist civil society, especially in countries still implementing the death penalty, the World Coalition put together information and mobilization tool packs. They were made available to members, the media, and anyone who wanted to take part in World Day, in order to raise awareness and mobilize people on a local level in as many countries as possible. All tools were made available in French and in English.

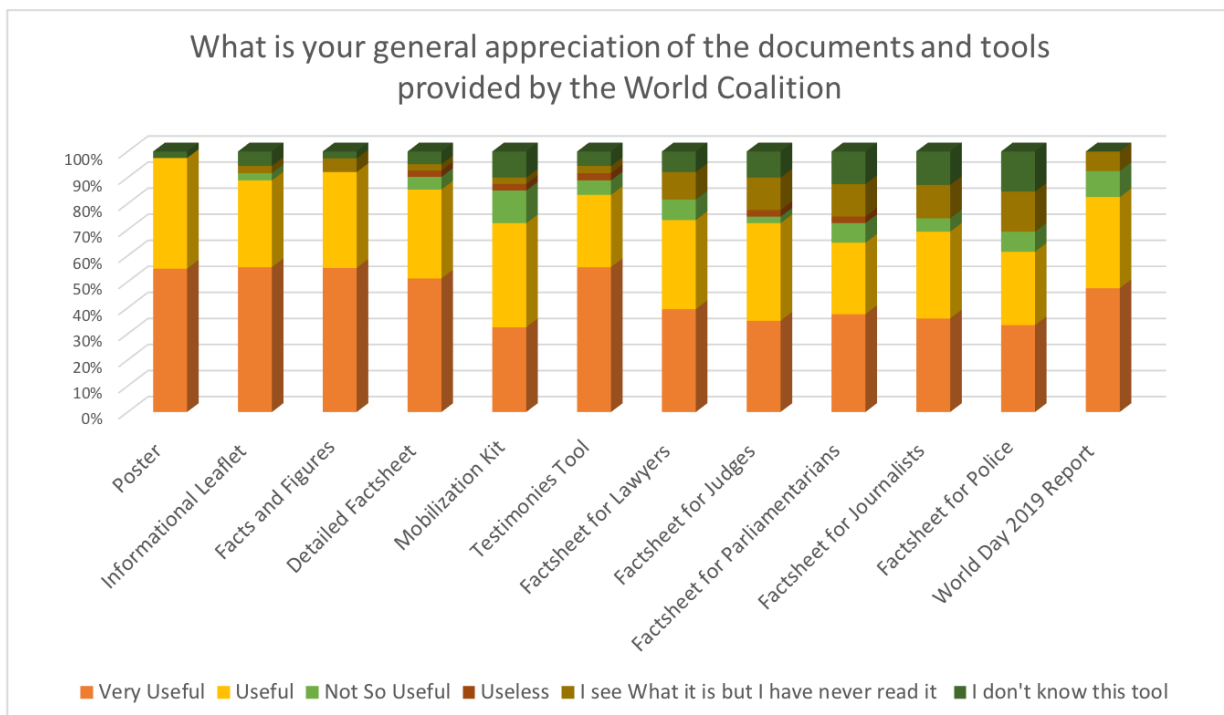
- **2020 World Day Poster** (also available in Arabic, Cebuano, German, Dhivehi, Spanish, Farsi, Italian, Japanese, Russian, Tagalog, and Chinese)
- **2020 World Day Brochure** (also available in Arabic)
- **Detailed Factsheet** on the importance of access to legal counsel
- **Facts and Figures 2020**
- **Mobilization Kit**
- **World Day Report 2019**
- **Testimonies Tool**
- **Professional Tool: Lawyers**
- **Professional Tool: Judges**
- **Professional Tool: Media**
- **Professional Tool: Police**
- **Professional Tool: Parliamentarians**

### 2) Distribution

In total, between July and September 2020, **667 recipients** around the world received packages of materials; an overall **2,635 posters** and **5,126 leaflets** were distributed. As compared to **2,725 posters** and **4,909 leaflets** distributed in 2019.

The tool packs were available upon request and could be downloaded from the World Coalition's website. In the week leading up to World Day, there were **5,661 visitors** to the Coalition's site, with a total of **2,623 views** on World Day alone. From here many users took the opportunity to access the tools available; **97 posters, 60 facts and figures sheets, 57 mobilization kits, and 42 leaflets** in English were downloaded in the week leading up to World Day with a further **35 posters, 31 facts and figures sheets and 14 mobilization kits** downloaded in French.

The **top 5** most appreciated tools and documents recorded from the responses were the poster, the testimonies tool, the information leaflet, documents on facts & figures, and the detailed factsheet on access to legal counsel.



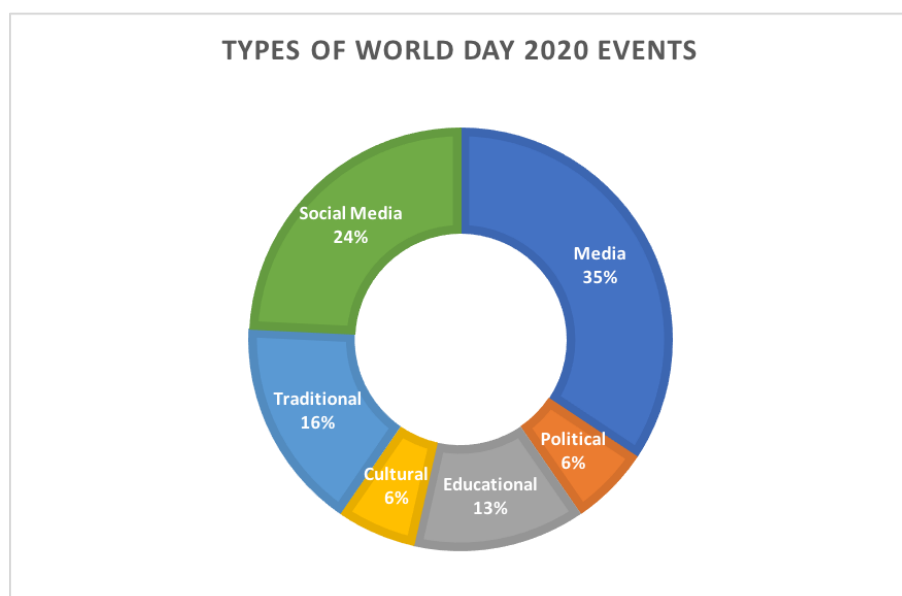
In 2019, **WhatsApp** became a new way to distribute World Day tools, particularly in the African continent. In 2020 this method was continued with **83** organizations and groups receiving a few of the tools and mobilization kits. The reach of this WhatsApp campaign was a self-reported estimated network sharing of these tools with **3,622** individuals across **29** African countries.

#### [4] Encouraging the Organization of Local Initiatives and Strengthening Abolitionist Civil Society.

- 1) Breakdown of World Day Events in a Range of Countries and Regions.

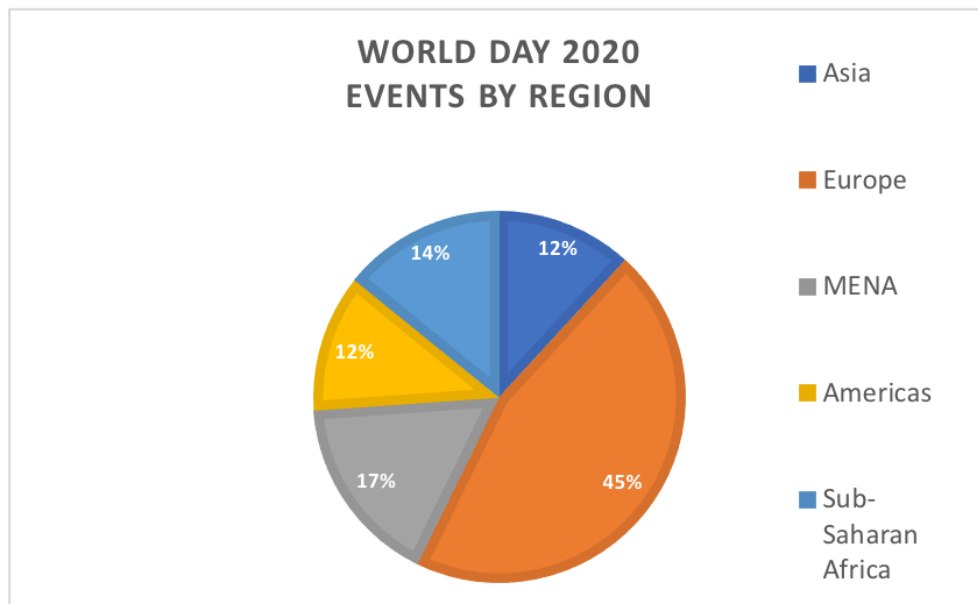
The COVID-19 pandemic had a serious effect on worldwide events for World Day 2020. The 18<sup>th</sup> World Day had a recorded **574** total events in **72** countries, which failed to surpass last year's record total of **746** events in **91** countries. There was a strong trend of virtual and online events this year in an effort to continue World Day commemorations safely and in accordance with public health guidelines.

There was a large number of **online seminars, webinars, virtual symposiums** and **social**



**media demonstrations** this year. The large amount of webinars and symposiums could account for the large amount of events that fell under the ‘**media**’ and ‘**social media**’ category this year. Though the presence of **traditional** activities remained strong this year too, it seemed members still prioritized leading demonstrations where possible, even in an online space such as the **March for Abolition** (see; Americas).

All in all, only **15%** of the events for World Day 2020 were held in person, often in the form of socially distanced demonstrations, limited capacity talks, workshops or conferences and the dissemination of information materials to the public.



## 2) Worldwide Mobilization to Raise Awareness on the Death Penalty

### Americas

This year there were **62 events** across North America, South America and the Caribbean. The majority of activities took place in the United States. Included in these events was an educational forum held by the **Cornell Centre on the Death Penalty Worldwide** “Defending the Condemned: Building Solidarity Across Borders.”

The **March for Abolition** is an event in Austin, Texas that typically takes place every year in the state’s capital. The annual march is a joint project organized by several Texas abolitionist groups such as **Texas Moratorium Network, Austin Abolitionist and Texas Students Against the Death Penalty** in collaboration with national organizations including World Coalition members **Journey of Hope** and **Witness to Innocence**. The 21<sup>st</sup> October Annual March for Abolition was held virtually this year to ensure the safety of participants. The event was marked by a series of speakers from government representatives, NGO groups, family members of people on death row and individuals exonerated from death row.

The **Brazilian Institute of Criminal Sciences (IBCCRIM)** held an international debate on the death penalty with academic speakers from all over the world.

In **Trinidad and Tobago**, the **Greater Caribbean for Life** also held a virtual panel discussion on the World Day theme, with speakers from the legal profession discussing the importance to access to counsel.

The media coverage in the American regions reached **67** journalistic articles.

## Asia

In the Asian region there were **77 events** across **15 countries**. Despite the decline in events across the board this year, abolitionist groups in all the regions made a great effort to host activities for the day, be it online or socially distanced in person.

There were several events in the Philippines as well. A group of NGO's and Civil Society Organisations including **Karapatan, Ecumenical Voice for Human Rights** and **Peace in the Philippines** and **Rise up or Life and for Rights** hosted a webinar entitled "Death Penalty Redux: Legislating Death in the Philippines." The webinar tackled the international human rights norms regarding the death penalty and the state of the criminal justice system in the Philippines. It had **3,200** views once streamed.

Legal groups in Asia also engaged with the World Day theme, including the **Hiroshima Bar Association** in Japan, who published a resolution on suspending the death penalty.

There was wide media coverage of World Day across the region, with **58** articles recorded in Asia for World Day 2020.

*As long as human beings make trials, there is always the possibility of making a mistake in judgment, but once executed, the death penalty has no means of recovery, and in the case of false accusations, the death penalty is an irreparable human right.*

*Hiroshima Bar Association. Resolution Calling for the Abolition of the Death Penalty  
10 October 2020*

## Europe

What remained consistent with previous years was the largest amount of events being hosted in the European region, with **261 European events** held during the week of World Day Against the Death Penalty across **18 countries**.

Some of the European activities were not limited to the World Day itself, for example there was a ten day exhibition and conference in the **Hall of Honor of the City of Grenoble** in France. The event was presented by the **Municipality of Grenoble** and the associations Action des Chrétiens pour l'Abolition de la Torture - **ACAT France, Amnesty International, The League of Human Rights Federation of Isère**, the **League for the Defence of Human Rights in Iran, Friends of Life**, and the **Peace Movement**. The exhibition followed a conference with the theme of "*Panorama of the conditions of detention and treatment of death row inmates in the world.*"

**Amnesty International Switzerland** hosted an in-person socially distanced demonstration in Zurich, highlighting the situation in the USA in particular. A virtual workshop on access to counsel was held by member organisation **Reprive** with support from the **EU**. The workshop was targeted at stakeholders in Malawi to discuss the issue of effective representation in the country.

As well as this, many **EU** delegations around the world including in **Tokyo, Malaysia**, and **the USA** commemorated World Day by making public statements declaring the EU's opposition to the death penalty in all cases and pushing for abolition.

The media coverage of World Day 2020 across Europe was the highest of any region, **with 396 journalistic articles** published on the subject. Surpassing World Day 2019's **378 articles** in the region.

### Middle East and North Africa

**96 events** were carried out this World Day across 10 Middle East and North African countries. Many regional coalition groups made statements or hosted events on World Day. In North Africa, the **Tunisian Coalition for the Abolition of the Death Penalty** called on Tunisian authorities to respect Tunisia's international obligations regarding the suspension of the death penalty, as well as holding a multi-day festival around the right to life, screening movies and documentaries about the subject. The **Moroccan Coalition Against the Death Penalty** held a conference on the issue as well.

In the Middle East, many online events and panels were hosted to mark the World Day. For example, **Independent Commission for Human Rights and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory** held an Online Symposium titled "The reality of the death penalty in Palestine and the guarantees of the right to life."

**The Justice Project Pakistan** collaborated with the **EU envoy** in Islamabad to host a screening of 'Before the Sun Comes Up,' a live art performance based on four original short stories of death row prisoners written by Mohammed Hanif. **Jordanian Women's Society Institute** hosted an online seminar attended by **1,500 participants**. The symposium included in-depth discussion on the capital punishment and human rights theories on the right to life and justice. **The Centre for Human Rights Defenders Iran** collaborated with **Reporters Without Borders** to release a statement on the 18<sup>th</sup> World Day calling for the elimination of the death penalty.

There was the second highest media coverage in the Middle East and North African region this World Day, with **166 articles** covering the international day. This number surpassed 2019, where 119 articles were recorded.

### Sub-Saharan Africa

The Sub-Saharan African region held **87 events** across **20 countries**.

Many multi-day campaigns were held in the African region, leading up to the World Day Against the Death Penalty 2020. For instance, the Kenyan section of the **International Commission of Jurists** partnered with **Amnesty Kenya**, the **Law Society of Kenya** and **Justice Defenders** to run a three day multi-media campaign using the hashtag **#AbolishTheDeathPenalty**.

**ACAT Congo** organized a prison visit on the 10<sup>th</sup> October to donate masks and food to inmates on death row, the group also held awareness raising workshops on the negative impact of the death penalty. In Benin, the volunteers at **Amnesty international** partook in a 10 day media campaign in the lead up to the world day distributing posters and information to public places, courts, schools & universities and radio & television stations.

**Observatoire Burundais des Prisons** organized an advocacy workshop to raise awareness on the issue of the death penalty and access to legal representation among policymakers and civil society. As well as this, they had a radio broadcast on the topic of abolition in Burundi, featuring a debate from participants from different backgrounds to encourage diverse debate.



The **Union Chrétienne pour le Progrès et la Défense de Droits de l'Homme (UCPDHO)** hosted a series of in-person awareness raising demonstrations in Uvira, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). These included the exhibition of World Day-themed banners around the city, the distribution of informative anti-death penalty leaflets, as well as a press conference to promote their television and radio campaign that promotes the right to defense for victims of the death penalty.

The **Foundation for Human Right's Initiative (FHRI)** and the **Uganda Coalition Against the Death Penalty** conducted a solidarity visit to Luzira Prison and donated items such as face masks and food to prisoners on death row. They also hosted a half-day event in commemoration of featuring a performance from the St. Edidio children's choir, poetry, and testimonies from former death row inmates. On the other end of the spectrum, **NGO Action des Chrétiens pour l'Abolition de la Torture Congo (ACAT Congo)** collaborated with members of the Congolese Senate, National Assembly, National Commission for Human Rights and Ministry of Justice to host a symposium on the OP-2, calling for parliamentarians for its ratification.

We recorded **34** articles on World Day in the Sub-Saharan Africa this year.

## **[5] Working with Organizations, Bar Associations that Advocate Support to Fair Trial, Quality Legal Assistance and Work Closely with Legal Professionals to Achieve That Aim**

This year's theme focused on the importance and the impact of legal counsel on implementation of the death penalty. Without access to effective legal representation during the stages of trial, due process cannot be guaranteed. The World Coalition worked with many legal organizations in the lead-up and execution of World Day 2020, with their contribution and shared experience the importance of legal counsel was emphasized.

The World Coalition and the **International Bar Association's Human Rights institute** collaborated on a statement to commemorate the **18<sup>th</sup> World Day** as well as the timely **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of the **UN basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers** and the **IBA Standards for the Independence of the Legal Profession**. The statement condemned the death penalty in all circumstances, as well as stressing the importance of the right to effective legal representation in capital punishment cases. Another issue raised in the joint statement was the limitations to the work of lawyers as well as calling upon states for the protection of lawyers to ensure free democratic societies. Many World Coalition members signed the statement in solidarity, including **the Advocates for Human Rights, Children Education Society, Coalition Tunisienne Contre la Peine de Mort, Colegio de Abogados y Abogadas de Puerto Rico, the Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, , Center for Prisoner's Rights, Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM), International Federation of ACATs, Legal Awareness Watch, Paris Bar, Reprieve, and the Institute for the Rule of Law of the International Association of Lawyers (UAI-IROL)**.

Examples of activities partaken in by bar associations, legal groups and advocates for access to fair legal representation on World Day 2020. The **International Association of Lawyers (UIA)** spoke out on World Day, reaffirming their commitment to abolishing the death penalty worldwide. A similar resolution was published by the **Hiroshima Bar Association**, calling for worldwide abolition. Other groups held webinars and online conferences on the topic of access to legal counsel. The Legal Defence and Assistance Project commemorated World Day with a themed webinar in collaboration with **Amnesty International, Avocats Sans Frontieres and Lawyers Alert**, amongst others. **The Minnesota State Bar Association** also held a webinar on Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and the death penalty.