



Acting for the abolition of the death penalty around the world

French version



Edito



by Kevin Miguel Rivera-Medina
*President of the World Coalition
Against the Death Penalty*

How difficult it is to write about year 2020 and still imagine a better future for ourselves!

Edito



How difficult it is to write about year 2020 and still imagine a better future for ourselves! But, as the Spanish poet Antonio Machado wrote "walker, there is no path, the path is made while walking".

In the midst of the desolation that the pandemic makes us live and the enormous obstacles it has represented for our abolitionist work, 2020 left us as well some positive news that I wish to highlight.

For example, there were no executions during the year 2020 in Japan. In the United States, the death penalty was abolished in Colorado and a new president was elected who has committed to abolishing the death penalty at the federal level. We also celebrate the largest number of votes (123) in the United Nations' General Assembly in favor of a moratorium to the use of the death penalty, along with the release of a study which reveals that more and more people in Iran oppose the death penalty. Too little too late, the Saudi Arabia abolished capital punishment for juveniles by royal decree. Chad abolished for crimes of terrorism, which remained an exception.

Nevertheless, 2020 hit us hard too. At the end of the year we lost two champions of our struggle, fellows Roger Hood and Bill Pelke. Also, in the same way that we had more votes in favor of the resolution at the UN, more countries voted against it (38), polarizing the vote. In terms of executions, Egypt confronted a disgraceful rise while

in the United States, on the final months of the Trump administration, the federal government viciously resumed executions with cruel ferocity.

As it was last year, 2021 is shaping up to be a challenging year for humanity, and our fight for better justice systems will not be an exception. However, we have already started with the good news of the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty by Kazakhstan – the only treaty with worldwide reach that commits states parties to abolishing capital punishment.

With our work and enthusiasm, universal abolition of the death penalty will be a reality sooner rather than later; bet on it!

“There is nothing like a dream to create the future.”

- Victor Hugo

Latest News



Bill Pelke and Roger Hood



The Loss of Our Esteemed Colleagues and Friends, Bill Pelke and Roger Hood

It is with great sadness that the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty has marked the passing of Bill Pelke and Roger Hood, who dedicated their lives to abolition.

World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

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Community of Sant'Egidio Calls for Universal Abolition With Cities for Life, Cities Against the Death Penalty

Community of Sant'Egidio organized a remote panel to celebrate the worldwide festivity “Cities for Life / Cities Against the Death Penalty” on 30 November.

Louis Linel

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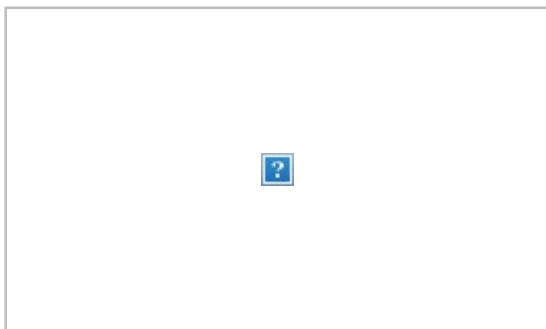


Statement on the Adoption of the 8th UN General Assembly Resolution for a Moratorium on the Use of the Death Penalty

The United Nations General Assembly adopted, on 16 December, the 8th resolution for a moratorium on executions, with 123 UN Member States voting in favor.

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Statement on the Occasion of the International Human Rights Day

International Human Rights



256 Death Sentences Commuted Into Life in Tanzania

The President of Tanzania

Day marks the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1948.

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commuted 256 death sentences into life in prison.

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Kazakhstan's flag



Kazakhstan Ratifies the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR

The President of Kazakhstan signed off on law ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

Louis Linel

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DPIC's Report



DPIC's Report on the 2020 Death Penalty Usage in the US

The Death Penalty Information Center's 2020 annual report highlights the continuing trend toward abolition in the US and the resumption of federal executions in a challenging COVID-19 context.

Louis Linel

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New Documents



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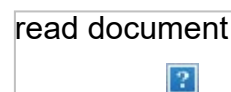




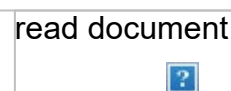
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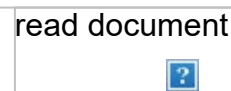
 **Respect for Minimum Standards? Report on the Death Penalty in China**
Document published by The Rights Practice

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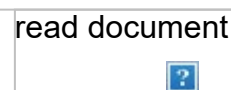
 **The Process of Abolishing the Death Penalty in Member States of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation**
Document published by Nael Georges, Ensemble contre la peine de mort

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 **Moratorium on the use of the death penalty. Report of the Secretary-General (2020)**
Document published by the United Nations

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 **The Death Penalty in 2020: Year-End Report**
Document published by the Death Penalty Information Center

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Important dates



Agenda image



January 21st | Gender-sensitive approaches to trauma in defending serious criminal cases. Part 1 of a series of trainings for defense teams representing women facing the death penalty - Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide. 2pm-3:30pm EST

Denny LeBoeuf, a capital defender for over 20 years, and presently of the ACLU's John Adams Project, will be in conversation with Dr. Bethany Brand, a clinical psychologist specialising in trauma, who has a wealth of experience acting as an expert witness. The webinar is intended to assist defense teams representing women and gender non-conforming people, and will address questions such as, does trauma affect women differently than men? How do we explain the

relationship between trauma disorders and violence?

[Register here](#)

February 11 | Presentation of the 29th Annual Awards Event of Death Penalty Focus.

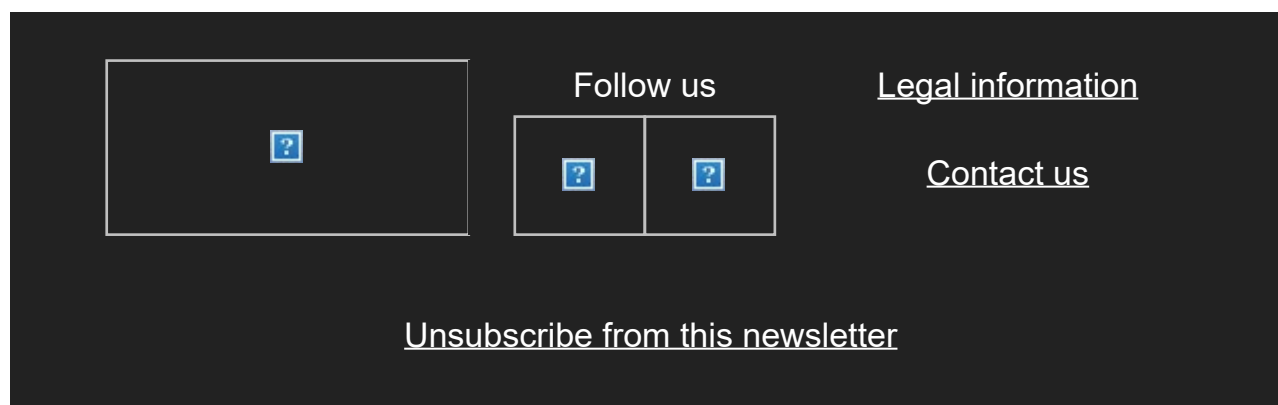
This year DPF will be honoring Rabbi Sharon Brous, civil rights leader from Los Angeles; Micheal Radelet, death penalty expert and activist, and the cast and crew of the film CLEMENCY.

More info here <https://deathpenalty.org/>

February 12-15 | Capital Case Defense Seminar. Presented by CACJ & CPDA

CCDS is the largest training program in the United States for death penalty attorneys, investigators, mitigation specialists, and experts. The event will be virtual, and available all over the world.

More info here <https://www.ccdseminar.com>



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