



UPDATE N°17 - CAMPAIGN FOR THE RATIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL PROTOCOLS AIMED AT ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

This document presents the recent evolution of the campaign. This update will be published every other month to give information about the campaign development (status of ratifications, actions taken by the World Coalition and its members) and suggest taking action in the target countries.

For more details please refer to our website: www.worldcoalition.org/protocol

As of 1st March 2015, 81 States are parties to the Protocol, and 3 other States have signed the Protocol but have not ratified it yet.

5 YEARS ON: RESULTS – BEST PRACTICES - STRATEGY

Early 2015, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty conducted the third internal evaluation of the ratification campaign entitled "5 years on: results – best practices – strategy". The main result of the campaign was the increase in the number of ratifications of international and regional protocols. **Between 2010 and 2015, 10 countries have ratified at least one protocol**, either regional or international or both (Benin, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Gabon, Guinea Bissau, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Mongolia and Poland) and two other countries signed the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR (Angola and Madagascar).

The report suggests innovative strategies and the development of new tools, such as a guide for parliamentarians or a new guide to explain to countries which may become "Friends of the Protocol" what is precisely expected of them.

As for the short term and mid-term objectives, 2015 will be the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Protocol American Convention on Human Rights (6 August 1990) and the World Coalition will work closely with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to promote the ratification of this treaty. 2016 will be the 25th anniversary of the entry into force of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR. The objective is to reach half of the 168 State parties to the ICCPR **by 2016 with 85 ratifications** and half of the 193 UN member states (97 countries) by 2021 for the 30th anniversary of the entry into force of the Protocol.

Actions taken since October 2014

- On 15 December 2014, 25th anniversary of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, the World Coalition and its member organisation, Center for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR Center), organised two workshops in Geneva to strengthen the ratification campaign: one with members of the Human Rights Committee and one with the group of "Friends of the Protocol"
- Reports sent to the **Human Rights Committee for Benin, Suriname and Cambodia**
- **Missions on the ground** organized by FIACAT in **Cote d'Ivoire** (November 2014) and **Togo** (December 2014)
- **Togo**: Bill for the ratification adopted by the Cabinet on 21 January 2015
- **Suriname**: abolition of the death penalty by the Parliament of Suriname on 3 March 2015, in the framework of the discussions regarding the adoption of the new Criminal Code
- **Cote d'Ivoire**: on 9 March 2015, the Parliament adopted a bill for the abolition of the death penalty in the Penal Code, as part of the revision of the Penal Code



Take Action Now!

For March and April 2015, we encourage you to send official letters to the following countries:

→ Morocco


S. E. Mr. Salaheddine Mezouar,
Minister of Foreign Relations
7, rue F. Roosevelt
Rabat, MAROC
Fax : +212 5 37 76 55 08

Mr. Mahjoub El Haiba
Délégué interministériel aux droits de l'Homme
Email : elhaiba@didh.gov.ma
(cc: rouwane@didh.gov.ma)

→ Cote d'Ivoire

S.E. M. Charles Koffi **DIBY**
Ministre des Affaires étrangères
Plateau, Bd Agoulevant, BP V 109
Abidjan
Côte d'Ivoire
Fax: +225 20 33 17 96

Mr Guillaume Soro
Président de l'Assemblée nationale
Assemblée nationale, 01 B.P. 1381
Abidjan 01
Côte d'Ivoire
Email: addralain@yahoo.fr
infos@assnat.ci

 For more information on these countries, please read the **ratification kits**:
www.worldcoalition.org/protocol

You will find advice and model letters in the **Lobbying Kit** that you may download online:
www.worldcoalition.org/media/resourcecenter/KitLobbyingMembresWCADP-EN.pdf

Agenda for March and April 2015:

- 2 – 27 March: 28th session of the **Human Rights Council** (Reports of the Independent Experts on **Haiti** and **Cote d'Ivoire**, adoption of **Angola's** UPR report)
- 16 March – 2 April: 113th session of the **Human Rights Committee** (Report of **Cambodia** and **Cote d'Ivoire**, adoption of the list of issues for **Benin** and **Suriname**)
- 16 March: Hearing before the **Inter-American Commission on Human Rights** on the situation of the death penalty in the **Greater Caribbean**
- 8 April: pre-session for the **Universal Periodic Review** of **Liberia**
- 21 April - 16 May: 56th Ordinary Session of the **African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights** (Report of **Sierra Leone**)
- **Missions on the ground** to be organized in **Angola, Armenia, Cambodia, Dominican Republic** and **Morocco** between April and June 2015.