



## UPDATE N°7 - CAMPAIGN FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE UN PROTOCOL TO ABOLISH 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: <http://www.worldcoalition.org/protocol>*

As of 1 August 2011, 73 States are parties to the Protocol, and 3 States have signed the Protocol but have not ratified it yet.

### Latest Developments

- **Dominican Republic:** on 1 August, the World Coalition received a letter from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs stating that the signing of the Protocol was before the Senate for approval before ratification by the President.
- **Bolivia:** on 25 July, the World Coalition received a letter from the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the President of the Republic stating that in response to letters sent by members of the World Coalition and the government of France, member of the group of the "Friends of the Protocol", Bolivia has initiated the ratification procedure.
- **Latvia:** The President dissolved the Parliament following a referendum on 23 July 2011. The next elections will be held on 17 September 2011. No ratification is likely to take place before the elections.
- **Poland** contacted the World Coalition stating that no ratification is likely to take place before the next parliamentary elections on 9 October 2011.
- **Tunisia, Mongolia and Benin:** the governments of these three countries have recently announced their intention to ratify the Protocol, but their parliaments seem to oppose it.

### New official support to the campaign

**Rwanda** has expressed interest in becoming a "Friend of the Protocol" at a meeting with members of the World Coalition in Rwanda in June.

**Belgium**, one of the "Friends of the Protocol", is organizing a side event to share good practices for the ratification of the Protocol during the next UN Human Rights Council on 19 September on the occasion of 20th anniversary of the entry into force of the Protocol.

### Actions taken in March and April 2011

- During the 11th session of the **Universal Periodic Review** of the UN, more than 12 countries have requested **Latvia** to ratify the Protocol. Following these recommendations, the representative of the Department of Justice said: "four committees of the Parliament supported a bill for the abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances, including in times of war and the Minister of Justice has prepared a package for abolition and for the ratification of relevant international instruments."
- The **European Union** has taken steps in the target countries to encourage ratification.
- Participation to the 17th session of the **UN Human Rights Council**.



## Take Action Now!

For August 2011, we encourage you to send official letters to the only two countries that have not answered yet to our letter campaign:

### → Angola

**H. E. Mr. Jose Eduardo Dos Santos**  
**President**

Palácio Presidencial  
Luanda  
Angola

**H. E. Mr. Georges Rebelo Chikoti**  
**Minister of External Relations**

Rua Major Kanhangulo 47, Palácio do  
Comércio - CP 885  
1223 Luanda  
Angola

### → Le Salvador

**H. E. Mr. Carlos Mauricio Funes**  
**Cartagena**

**Presidente de la República de El Salvador**  
Alameda Dr. Manuel Enrique Araujo, No. 5500  
San Salvador  
El Salvador

**H. E. Mr. Hugo Roger Martinez Bonilla**  
**Minister of Foreign Relations**

Calle El Pedregal, Blvd. Cancillería  
Ciudad Merliot  
Antiguo Cuscatlan  
El Salvador

You will find advice and model letters in the **Lobbying Kit** that you may download online:  
<http://www.worldcoalition.org/protocol>

 All the ratification kits have been updated and are also available in Spanish!

## Agenda for August and September 2011:

- **8-9 September:** Death Penalty Conference held in Kigali, Rwanda, organised by Hands Off Cain
- **12-30 September:** 18th Ordinary Session of the Human Rights Council of the United Nations, Geneva
- **19 September:** side event to share good practices for the ratification of the Protocol organized during the next UN Human Rights Council on the occasion of 20th anniversary of the entry into force of the Protocol.
- **September 12 to December 24:** 66th General Assembly of the United Nations, New York
- **September 26 to October 7:** Human Rights Implementation Meeting of the OSCE, Warsaw, Poland