

The work of the World Coalition and its members aims to make these tools better known and to encourage universal ratification. The ratification campaign is complimentary to the other campaigns of the World Coalition, including the campaign for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty. A successful campaign will need to achieve several specific objectives:

- The project aims to increase the number of ratifications of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR. The campaign's target is for at least ten UN Member States to ratify the Second Optional Protocol within 5 years, with two priority countries per year. Visit www.worldcoalition.org/protocol to see the current list.
- The World Coalition is also campaigning for the ratification of the regional protocols and particularly for the adoption by the African Union of a Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the abolition of the death penalty.

In addition to the focus on target countries, the World Coalition will also target a specific protocol each year, according to the following calendar:

2018: African Protocol: adoption of the Protocol by the African Union.

2019: UN Protocol: 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.

2020: American Protocol: 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights.

2021: UN Protocol: 30th anniversary of the entry into force of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.

2022: European Protocol: 20th anniversary of the adoption of Protocol 13 to the European Convention.

- The Coalition monitors respect for the provisions of the international and regional protocols, particularly in the case of States which ratified a protocol but have not abolished the death penalty in law. Such was the case of **Benin and Mongolia**, which abolished the death penalty in law after having ratified the UN Protocol on March and July 2012 respectively.

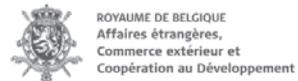
- Finally, the campaign also focuses on the countries that threaten to adopt legislation that would allow for the return of the death penalty, after having ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, namely **Turkey and the Philippines**.



www.worldcoalition.org

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, created in 2002, gathers over 140 NGOs, bar associations, unions and public bodies. The aim of the World Coalition is to strengthen the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty. Its ultimate objective is to obtain the universal abolition of the death penalty.

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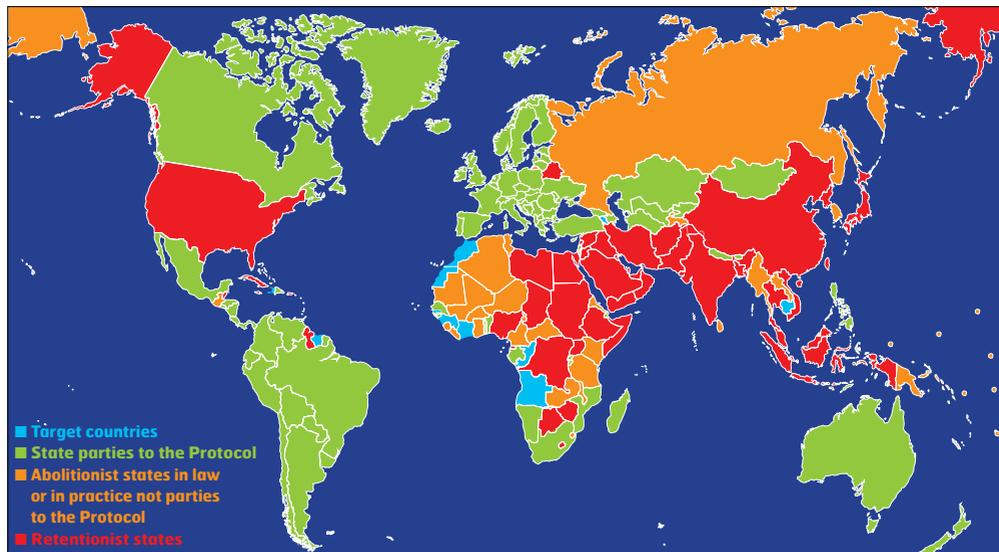


Endorse the United Nations Protocol
to Abolish the Death Penalty

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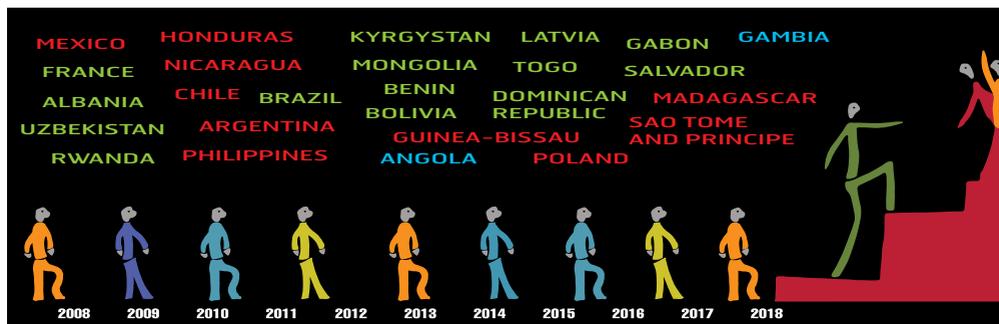
CAMPAIGN FOR THE RATIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL PROTOCOLS AIMED AT ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY



THE SECOND OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS: THE LEGAL INSTRUMENT PROHIBITING EXECUTIONS AND ABOLISHING THE DEATH PENALTY WORLDWIDE.

The **Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)**, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty is the only international treaty of worldwide scope to prohibit executions and to provide for total abolition of the death penalty. This text requires the States that ratify it to renounce the use of the death penalty definitively.

It is open for ratification by any State party to the ICCPR. Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly with resolution 44/128 of 15 December 1989, it entered into force on 11 July 1991 after its tenth ratification.



Evolution of ratifications: ■ RATIFICATION ■ SIGNATURE ■ ACCESSION

TO SEE THE CURRENT STATUS OF RATIFICATION, PLEASE VISIT: WWW.WORLDCOALITION.ORG/PROTOCOL

Why is it important for States to ratify the Second Optional Protocol?

- **At the national level**, when a State ratifies the Second Optional Protocol, it accepts that no one within its jurisdiction may be executed, with a possible reservation for serious crimes of a military nature committed during wartime. Not only is this a way for the State to establish its abolitionist stance through international law, but since it does not include a mechanism for withdrawal, it provides a very strong guarantee against reinstatement of the death penalty at the national level.

- **At an international level**, the Second Optional Protocol ultimately outlaws executions and establishes unequivocally the principle that the death penalty is a violation of human rights, in particular, the right to life. However, in order to do so, support for the Second Optional Protocol, in terms of the number of States parties, must reach a 'critical mass'.

As of 25 of September 2017, 85 of the 169 States parties to the ICCPR have ratified its Second Optional Protocol, most recently the Dominican Republic, Togo, Sao Tome and Principe, and Madagascar.

What does the Second Optional Protocol say?

- **The Preamble** underscores the significance of abolition of the death penalty as a measure enhancing human rights and assumes the commitment of States parties to this end.

- **Article 1** provides for a ban on executions and for the abolition of the death penalty within the jurisdiction of States parties.

- **Article 2** allows States to reserve the right to apply the death penalty for serious crimes of a military nature committed during wartime.

- **Article 6** further specifies the non-repealed nature of the ban on executions, even in times of public emergency.

- **Articles 3, 4 and 5** concern the reporting obligations of States parties and the complaints procedure.

- **Articles 7 to 11** cover the procedural issues.

A universal tool with regional equivalents

The **Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR** is the only universal instrument aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, but there are also regional protocols for which the World Coalition is also campaigning:

- **Protocol 6 to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR) concerning the Abolition of the Death Penalty** is the first regional abolitionist treaty. It has been signed by all 47 Member States of the Council of Europe and ratified by 46 of them. This text provides for the abolition of the death penalty, but still allows States to maintain it for crimes committed in time of war or of imminent threat of war.

- **Protocol 13 to the ECHR**, adopted in May 2002, ratified by 44 of the 47 States and signed by an additional State, abolishes the death penalty in all circumstances and without possible reservations. Thus, it goes beyond the range of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.

- **The Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights to Abolish the Death Penalty** was adopted in 1990 by the Organisation of the American States (OAS). Like the Second Optional Protocol, it aims at abolishing capital punishment, with the same possibility for States "to apply the death penalty in wartime in accordance with international law, for extremely serious crimes of a military nature". It has been ratified to date by 13 out of the 35 Member States of the OAS.