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#### **Member Organisations:**

ABF, ACAT France, ACAT Germany, ACAT Liberia, ADALEH, ADPAN, AFSC, AI, AJEM, ALEF, ALIVE, AMDH, APEQ, Arab Coalition Against the Death Penalty, ASF France, ASF Guinea, Association for the Rights to Live, Bayt Al Hikma, BHC, BHRS, Braine l'Alleud, CCDHRN, CCR, CCSJ, CEDP, CGNK, CGT, Chaml, CHESO, CIB, CJCCPDM, CMDH, CNLT, COALIT, CODHAS, CODHO, COJESKI, Comitato Paul Rougeau, CPF, CPR, CRSJS, CSFEF, CTCPM, CURE, CYM, Dijon, Droits et Paix, DWI, EJ USA, FACPM, FHRI, FMVJ, Forum 90, FSU, GAM, GCADP, HOC, Hope & Justice, HRCP, HRI, HRW, HURILAWS, ICHRDS, ICJ, IHRAG, IODR, Iraqi Coalition Against the Death Penalty, JIADEP, Journey of Hope, KADP, KMMK-G, KontraS, LACR, LDH, LDVDH, Leaders Organization, League of Women Lawyers of Tajikistan, LEDAP, LHRC, LIDH, Lifespark, LPJ, LSF, Matera, Mauritanian Coalition Against the Death Penalty, MDT, MEDEL, Michigan Committee Against Capital Punishment, Mothers Against Death Penalty, Mouvance des Abolitionnistes du Congo Brazzaville, MRAP, NACDL, NCADP, NHM, NLG, OBF, ODA Geneva, ODA Hauts de Seine, ODA Liège, OMCeO Firenze, OMCT, OMP, ONP, Pax Christi Uvira, PCHR, PCRC, PFADP, Poitiers, PRCADP, QUNO, RADHOMA, RAIDH, RAL, Reggio Emilia, REPECAP, Reprieve Australia, Rights and Democracy, ROTAB, SACP, Save Anthony, SHAMS, Stop Child Executions, SYNAFEN, TCADP, Think Centre, Tuscany, UCPDHO, Unis pour l'abolition de la peine de mort, USHRN, Venice, Victorian Criminal Justice Coalition, WICC

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*WCADP Statement on executions in USA*

*May 6, 2014*

## **USA**

### **World Coalition supports international calls for American moratorium**

**Following the botched execution of Clayton Lockett in Oklahoma on 29 April, the United Nations called on the United States to suspend executions in the face of potential international law violations. The World Coalition supports this call.**

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, in solidarity with its members in the United States, joins the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) of the United Nations in calling for an immediate moratorium on executions throughout the USA.

The long and evidently extreme suffering of prisoner Clayton Lockett following the administration of drugs under a secret, untested and unexamined lethal injection protocol appears to constitute cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment prohibited under international human rights standards.

“We are deeply concerned that the killing of Mr Lockett was in violation of both the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution and the UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, to which the US is a party,” said Elizabeth Zitrin, a US lawyer and vice president of the World Coalition.

President Barack Obama has taken positive steps in acknowledging that the death penalty in the US has “significant problems — racial bias, uneven application ... [and] individuals on death row who later on were discovered to have been innocent” and in directing the Department of Justice to review the death penalty. That review will include both federal and state practices.

The death penalty systems in the US are in serious disarray, with repeated malfunctions causing extreme suffering during executions, an absence of legitimate sources of drugs, pervasive racial bias and ongoing findings of innocence among death row prisoners.

Under these circumstances, and with the recognition by President Obama of a disturbing array of serious problems, we strongly encourage the government of the United States to enforce an immediate moratorium on the use of the death penalty.