

Created in Rome in May 2002, the Coalition brings together legal associations, unions, local governments, non-governmental organizations and others who are committed to the struggle against the death penalty and who want to coordinate their lobbying and actions at an international level.

Steering Committee members
Amnesty International, Collectif Unitaire National de Soutien à Mumia Abu-Jamal, Comité national pour l'abolition de la peine de mort au Maroc, Comité des Observateurs des Droits de l'Homme, Community of Sant'Egidio, Death Penalty Focus, Culture pour la Paix et la Justice, Ensemble contre la peine de mort, International Federation of Human Rights Leagues, Fédération Syndicale Unitaire, International Bars Conference, International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture, Mothers Against the Death Penalty, Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, National Lawyers Guild, Paris Bar, Observatoire Marocain des Prisons, Organisation marocaine des droits humains, Penal Reform International, Tuscany

Other members
ACAT France, American Friends Service Committee, City of Andoian, Association for the Right to Live, Association Marocaine des Droits Humains, Bahrain Human Rights Society, City of Braine l'Alleud, Center for Prisoner's Rights, Comitato Paul Rougeau, Comité Syndical Francophone de l'Education et de la Formation, CURE, City of Dijon, Forum 90 Japan, Forum marocain pour la Vérité et la Justice, Foundation for Human Rights Initiative, Italian Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, Iranian Human Rights Activists Groups in EU and North America, Journey of Hope, Lifespark, Ligue des Droits de l'Homme, Lutte Pour la Justice, City of Matera, Moroccan Centre of Human Rights, Mouvement contre le Racisme et pour l'Amitié entre les Peuples, National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Ordine Provinciale dei Medici-Chirurghi e degli odontoiatri di Firenze, Ordre des Barreaux francophones et germanophones de Belgique, Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, Pax Christi Uvira asbl, People of Faith Against the Death Penalty, Puerto Rican Coalition against the Death Penalty, City of Reggio Emilia, Rights and Democracy, SOS Attentats - SOS Terrorisme, Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty, Texas Coalition to abolish the death penalty, City of Venice, World Organisation against Torture.

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10 OCTOBER 2008

**6TH WORLD DAY
AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY**

**GRASSROOTS
MOBILISATION KIT**

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For more information:

www.worldcoalition.org

[1] PRESENTATION

- **The 6th World day: October, 10th 2008**

Every year, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP) calls for local initiatives worldwide. The events involve citizens and organisations supporting the abolition of capital punishment and comprise debates, concerts, press releases or any other action which would give to the global abolition claim an international boost.

This Day is intended for both political leaders and public opinion of countries where the death penalty has or not been abolished yet: people have to remember the meaning of abolition and pass it down through generations.

They must be aware that a justice without death penalty is possible.

- **The aims:**

Encourage and consolidate the political and general public's awareness of the movement against the death penalty internationally;

Put pressure on countries to stop executions and abolish the death penalty where it is still practised;

Publicize the existence of the WCADP and its work;

Ensure international recognition of the 10th October as the World Day Against the Death Penalty.

[2] HISTORY

• The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

The WCADP, an alliance of about 76 NGOs, bar associations, local bodies and unions, was created in Rome on 13 May 2002. It was founded as a result of the commitment made by the signatories of the Final declaration of the 1st World Congress Against the Death Penalty, which was organised by the French NGO Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) in Strasbourg in June 2001. The aim of the WCADP is to strengthen the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty. Its ultimate objective is to obtain the end of death sentences and executions in those countries where the death penalty is in force. In some countries, it is seeking to obtain a reduction in the use of capital punishment as a first step towards abolition.

The WCADP is striving to achieve these by lobbying international organisations and States, organising international events, and facilitating the creation and development of national and regional coalitions against the death penalty.

Since 2003, the WCADP has made the 10th of October the World Day Against the death Penalty.

In 2007, on the occasion of the World Day, the World Coalition decided to encourage an international mobilisation in favour of the resolution calling for the establishment of a global moratorium on the death

penalty at the 62nd session of the United Nation General Assembly. More than **411 initiatives** were organised in **60 countries** across five continents and over **160 000 petition signatures** were collected.

For six years now, initiatives have been developed worldwide. In **2003, 63 countries** joined forces and took **188 actions** against death penalty. For the second occurrence, in **2004, 205 initiatives** were taken in **24 countries**. The 3rd World Day, in **2005**, was celebrated in **46 countries** through **263 actions**. For this occasion, a petition, inviting the African Heads of State to abolish the death penalty, collected over **42 000 signatures** and was delivered to the African Union's Chairmanship. In **2006, 450 000 local actions** were taken all over the world. In addition, 5 petitions circulated to support five emblematic death row inmates who were convicted after justice failures: conviction of innocents; discriminatory sentences; unfair trials; cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and death sentence for mentally ill. These petitions collected over **145 000 signatures**.

The main action of this year is a call to end executions in Asia.

[3] WORLD DAY 2008:

IT'S TIME TO END EXECUTIONS IN ASIA !

• Campaign for a death penalty free Asia

Beyond the moral, religious or political reflections raised by the debate on death penalty, this penal punishment breaks rules of international law.

- *The death penalty violates human rights:* every international convention concerning human rights recognizes the right no to be subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment.

The conditions of detention, the wait pending execution and the execution itself must be regarded as inhuman and degrading treatments.

- *The death penalty breaks international law:* the death penalty is often applied in violation of international human rights standards which prohibit the execution of the mentally ill and of child offenders, as well as executions after unfair trial. A handful of states continue to execute child offenders. Iran executed eight in 2007, Saudi Arabia one and Yemen one. Concerning the execution of the mentally ill, Angel Maturino Reséndiz was executed in 2006 despite compelling evidence that he suffered from serious mental illness.

- *The international justice excludes the death penalty for extremely grave crimes:* International law tends towards global abolition and encourages States to abolish the death penalty. The International Criminal Court since July, 1st 2002 and the International Criminal Tribunals (Former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the Special Court for Sierra Leone, the Special Panels for Serious Crimes in Dili, Timor-Leste, and the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia) exclude the death penalty to punish the most serious crimes: crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes.

Nowadays, **137 countries** from all regions of the world have abolished the death penalty in law or in practice and 'only' 24 countries carried out executions in 2007.

According to Amnesty International, **88%** of executions registered took place in five countries: China, Iran,, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United States.

In Asia **27 countries** have already abolished the death penalty in law or in practice while 14 countries continue to carry out executions, but 95% of the population still lives in a country with the death penalty.

[3] WORLD DAY 2008:

IT'S TIME TO END EXECUTIONS IN ASIA !

• The World Coalition's Demands to stop executions in Asia

For the 6th World Day of 2008, the WCADP calls for the support of the abolitionist movement in Asia by focusing on six countries.

Three countries were chosen because progress towards abolition has been made (**India, South Korea and Taiwan**) and the other three (**Japan, Pakistan and Viet nam**) where there are concerns about the application of the death penalty

Each country is linked to a particular demand:

- the introduction of **moratoria** on executions in India, South Korea and Taiwan;
- the respect of **transparency** for the death row inmates and the application of the death penalty in Japan;
- the enforcement the right to **fair trials** in Pakistan;
- and the **reduction of the number of capital offences** in Vietnam.

• The Appeals

"We, the undersigned,
Call on the Japanese government to end secrecy surrounding the death row inmates and the application of the death penalty and appeal to the Japanese Minister of Justice to commute the sentence and review the case of Hakamada Iwao, sentenced to death in 1968 and detained in solitary confinement for the last 28 years.

Call on the Pakistani government to guarantee the right to a fair trial and appeal to the President to commute the sentence of Younis Masih, sentenced to death on 30 May 2007 for blasphemy following an unfair trial.

Call on the Vietnamese president and government to reduce the number of offences punishable by death and appeal to the Vietnamese president to commute the sentence of Tang Thi Ba, a former post office treasurer sentenced to death for embezzlement in May 2008.

Call on the Taiwanese government to declare a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty as provided by the UN General Assembly resolution 62/149 and appeal to the Taiwanese president to commute the sentences of Liu Bing-lang, Su Chien-ho and Chuang Lin-hsun known as the "Hsichih Trio", sentenced to death in 1991 after they had confessed under torture committing a murder.

Call on the Indian government to declare a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty as provided by the United Nation General Assembly resolution 62/149.

Call on the South Korean government to affirm the moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty in law for all crimes."

Download the text of the appeals from this page:
<http://www.worldcoalition.org/modules/news/article.php?storyid=150>

[4] THE WORLD DAY: TAKE ACTIONS!

The main objective of the World Day is to provoke and stimulate local initiatives in a large number of countries, as many as possible, particularly in the countries where the death penalty is still in force.

Take actions to stop executions in Asia

• Material for the 6th World Day

On the occasion of the 2008 World Day, the WCADP has produced some material, available on its website.

<http://www.worldcoalition.org/modules/news/article.php?storyid=150>

Appeals

The appeals are available for online signatures on the WCADP's website

- Sign the appeals and have it signed;
- Post it on your website with a link to the WCADP's site for online signatures

The appeals are also available as letters that may be downloaded from the WCADP's website:

www.worldcoalition.org

- Print them out, have it signed and send them back to us;
- Circulate it in your town hall, schools, stores, churches etc.

Information Leaflet

This leaflet gives a lot of information about the death penalty in Asia and in the targeted countries. For organisers of events, copies of the information leaflet are available at no cost from the Executive Secretariat of the WCADP (contact: aplacais@abolition.fr).

- Use it to organise event, make your own documents and inform the public about the situation in Asia.

Public opinion awareness leaflet

This shorter leaflet informs the public and invites everyone to take action. It recalls the main arguments against the death penalty and presents the campaign to end executions in Asia. Download it from the WCADP's website.

- Circulate it in all events and while handing out the appeals.

Facts and figures on the death penalty

Update on the application of death penalty around the world in 2007.

Country Profiles

Information about the 6 Asian countries of the campaign.

Poster of the World Day

For organisers of events, copies of the poster are available at no cost from the Executive Secretariat of the WCADP (contact: aplacais@abolition.fr).

Banner

A web banner announcing the World Day Against the Death Penalty can be downloaded for display on your website.

[4] THE WORLD DAY: TAKE ACTIONS!

• Call for initiatives, some suggestions for 2008:

On 10 October 2008, take action against the death penalty:

Wherever you are: in Africa, America, Asia, Oceania or Europe

Whoever you are: NGO, teacher, lawyer, local representative, member of parliament, artist, reporter, religious leader, citizen

Whatever your plans are: Debates, concerts, press conferences, demonstrations, petitions, educational and cultural activities.

- Take action to say "No" to the death penalty;
- Join the hundreds of initiatives worldwide;
- Spread the call to end executions in Asia ;

• Sample of actions taken in 2006 and 2007:

Africa

- **Burundi: A month against death penalty:** in 2006, the Coalition for the development and social rehabilitation organised several events around October 10: visit of prisons in 10 provinces, redaction of a mission report, TV and radio shows, sport and cultural demonstrations, etc.
- **Democratic Republic of Congo:** in 2007, on the occasion of a 'week against the death penalty', the Congolese campaigners have organised 29 initiatives throughout the country: articles in the press, peaceful marches, letters to the authorities, press conferences, workshops, radio broadcast, etc.
- **Morocco, Rabat:** Sit-in, short film, press release and letter to the ministry of Justice (2006).
- **Palestine:** in 2007, in Ramallah, the Palestinian Coalition against the Death Penalty organised a televised conference and remind people of its fight in favour of the abolition of the capital punishment.

America

- **United States, Texas:** in 2007, during "Texas Journey of Hope", a concert and a succession of meetings and conferences took place in many venues (churches, schools, universities and civic associations) from Huston to Huntsville. The Journey Tour allowed the voices of members of murder victims' family, families of prisoners on death row or executed prisoners, and activists to be heard to reject a policy of vengeance and fight for the abolition of the death penalty.
- **Peru:** in 2007, Amnesty International Peru set out in the middle of the streets a living exhibition as well as a fake sale of items used for executions throughout the

world: rope, electric chair, syringes for lethal injections, etc. This initiative was really successful attracting both members of the public and journalists.

- **Puerto Rico:** in 2007, the Porto-Rican Coalition organised a presentation of the book "*Los que murieron en la Horca*" ("*Those who died by hanging*") telling the story of people hanged in Puerto Rico before 1927.

Asia

- **Asia region:** Amnesty International launched the Anti Death Penalty Asia Network in 2006.
- **South Korea, Seoul:** Press conference supporting the Special Bill abolishing the death penalty in 2006.
- **Nepal, Kathmandu:** Demonstration against the death penalty in front of the Chinese Embassy of Kathmandu in 2006.
- **The Philippines:** in 2007, the organisation of Mistreated Migrant Filipino Workers and its sympathizers joined together with other associations to intensify the campaign for Marilou Ronario and all the Filipino workers held on death row in Asia and the Middle East. Since then the death sentence of Marilou Ronario has been commuted to life imprisonment.
- **Taiwan:** on the occasion of the 2nd by Numbers Film Festival, the Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty organised the screening of films on the subject of the death penalty as well as discussion forums and a press conference (2007).
- **Thailand, Bangkok:** Candle vigil in front of the Ministry of Justice in 2006.

Europe

- **Austria, Vienna:** in 2007, The Vienna State Opera adapted and staged the book *Dead Man Walking* a testimony of an American nun who accompanied several death row inmates until the moment of their execution.
- **Denmark:** in 2007, Amnesty International Denmark organised in 38 different towns a living exhibition representing the last meal of the prisoners sentenced to death, inviting the public to think about what their last meal might be.
- **France:** Several associations organised fake, life-sized hangings denouncing the upsurge in executions in Iran. During the event, interview with activists, reports, campaign presentations and appeals for signatures took place (2007).
- **Italy, Reggio Emilia:** Picture exhibition, theatre play, film projection of some works done by students from a secondary school, nightlights, lecture and music against the death penalty (2006).

For more initiatives, check our website:
www.worldcoalition.org

[5] ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

• Reports on Asian countries

• Report on **India**: “*Lethal Lottery: The Death Penalty in India, A study of Supreme Court judgments in death penalty cases 1950-2006.*” issued by Amnesty International India and the People’s Union for Civil Liberties in 2008; to be downloaded on Amnesty International website:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA20/007/2008>

• Report on **Japan**: “*Will this day be my last?*” *The death penalty in Japan*” (2006); to be downloaded on Amnesty International website:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA22/006/2006/en>

• Report on **Japan**: “*The Death Penalty In Japan, A Practice Unworthy of a Democracy*” (2003) to be downloaded on FIDH website:

<http://www.fidh.org/spip.php?article123>

• Report on **Pakistan**: “*Slow march to the gallows: Death penalty in Pakistan*” (2007) to be downloaded on FIDH website:

<http://www.fidh.org/spip.php?article4096>

• Report on **Viet Nam**: “*Socialist Republic of Viet Nam: The death penalty - inhumane and ineffective*” (2003) to be downloaded on Amnesty International website:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA41/023/2003/en>

• Websites

General information on death penalty

• World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

www.worldcoalition.org

• Amnesty International, death penalty page

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/death-penalty>

• Death penalty website of the FIDH

<http://www.fidh.org/spip.php?rubrique650>

Please refer to the Coalition members’ website and get in touch with them using the contact details you will find at the end of this document.

Filmography

Documentary films

• **Made in the USA** (2001) *OV (French)*

French documentary film by Solveig Anspach et Cindy Babski. (1h45)

Made in the USA relates the execution, on March, 1st 2000, of Odell Barnes, sentenced to death in Texas, for the murder of one of his mother’s friend.

• **Le Dernier repas** (2002) : *OV (English) with French subtitles*

Canadian documentary film by Julien Elie (75 min)

Visit within the nightmarish atmosphere of Huntsville town which has the highest rate of executions in the United States. This movie tells the story of Farley Matchett, a former death row inmate executed on September, 12th 2006, through his grand mother’s eyes.

• **999 060** (2006 - 30 min) : *OV (English) with French subtitles*

Interview of Farley Matchett.

Movies

• **Night Train** (2007)

Chinese movie by Diao Yi Nan

Night train tells the story of Wu Hongyan, a woman in charge of the execution of death row inmates in Western China.

• **Redemption: The Stan Tookie Williams story** (2004)

American movie by Jamie Foxx

Redemption tells the story of Stan “Tookie” Williams, founder of the Crips L.A. street gang. Story follows his fall into gang-banging, his prison term, and his work writing children’s novels encouraging peace and anti-violence resolutions which earned him multiple Nobel Peace Prize nominations.

Tookie was executed by lethal injection at San Quentin State Prison, California.

• **The life of David Gale** (2003)

American movie by Alan Parker

Dr. David Gale, an advocate of eliminating the death penalty, is falsely accused of rape and murder. Once convicted, he ends up on death row in Texas himself, telling his story to a reporter.

• **The green mile** (2000)

American movie by Frank Darabont

Death Row guards at a penitentiary, in the 1930’s, have a moral dilemma with their job when they discover one of their prisoners, a convicted murderer, has a special gift.

[5] ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

- **Dead Man Walking** (1995)

American movie by Tim Robbins

A caring nun receives a desperate letter from a death row inmate trying to find help to avoid execution for murder.

Filmography on the ECPM website:

<http://www.abolition.fr/ecpm/french/filmographie.php?&topic=54>

- **Radio**

You can listen to various victims and abolitionists' testimonies on ECPM website (www.abolition.fr).

They are also available in their original language.

Don't hesitate to get in touch with your local radio stations, they can broadcast them!

Abolitionists' testimonies

- **China:** Teng Biao: « **Nowadays, 99% of Chinese people are pro-death penalty.** »

- **Morocco:** Nouzha Skally: "**There are no obstacles on the way to abolition** »

Victims' testimonies

- **Antoinette Chahine – Lebanon:** Antoinette Chahine was a young student in Beyrouth when she was arrested in June 1994.

- **Renny Cushing – United States:** Founding member and Executive Director of Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights, an international organisation founded by victims' families who are against the death penalty.

- **Joaquin Jose Martinez – Spain :** Joaquin José Martinez, a Spanish national, was living in the United States when he was arrested in 1996 and accused of double murder.

- **Sakae Menda – Japan :** Sakae Menda was arrested in 1949 for a double murder he never committed. After 34 years on death row, he was found innocent. He became the first death row inmate to be released in Japan.

- **Edmary Mpagi – Uganda :** Edmary Mpagi is a former death row inmate. He was convicted for the murder of a man who, finally, was discovered alive 18 years later.

Check the website for the full list

<http://www.abolition.fr/ecpm/french/article.php?art=508&subj=193&topic=54>

[6] JOIN THE COALITION

Only organisations can join the World Coalition

In accordance with article 2 of its Charter, the Coalition welcomes organisations who are sharing the aim of the universal abolition of the death penalty.

To join us, you address a request to the Executive Secretariat of the World Coalition. Please enclose a presentation of your organisation and its activities with your application.

For more information, please check our website:
www.worldcoalition.org

Every member of the Coalition must pay a 150 euros subscription, in accordance with article 4 of the Charter.

Before you apply for membership, we invite you to read the **Charter of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty**:

http://www.worldcoalition.org/modules/pages/index.php?pagenum=4&sel_lang=english

[7] CONTACTS DETAILS

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