

Steering Committee members:

Amnesty International, Arab Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Collectif Unitaire National de Soutien à Mumia Abu-Jamal, Coalition nationale pour l'abolition de la peine de mort au Maroc, 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 Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture, Lawyers For Human Rights International, Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights, National Association of Criminal Defence Lawyers, Paris Bar, Penal Reform International, Puerto Rico Bar Association, Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty, Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Tuscany Region.

Other members:

ACAT France, Advocates for Human Rights, American Friends Service Committee, Association for the Rights to Live, City of Andoain, Association Marocaine des Droits Humains, Bahrain Human Rights Society, Belarusian Helsinki Committee, City of Braine l'Alleud, Centre for Prisoner's Rights, Centre marocain des droits humains, Coalition nationale tunisienne contre la peine de mort, Collectif des Organisations des Jeunes Solidaires du Congo-Kinshasa, Comité des Observateurs des Droits de l'Homme, Comitato Paul Rougeau, Comité Syndical Francophone de l'Education et de la Formation, Conférence Internationale des Barreaux, Congolese Youth Movement, Conseil National pour les Libertés en Tunisie, CURE, Death Watch International, City of Dijon, Federation of Liberal Students, Forum Africain contre la Peine de Mort, Forum 90 Japan, Forum marocain pour la Vérité et la Justice, Foundation for Human Rights Initiative, Hands Off Cain, Hope & Justice, Human Rights Watch, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, HURILAWS, International Organization for Diplomatic Relations, Iranian Human Rights Activists Groups in EU and North America, Iraqi Alliance for the Prevention of the death penalty, Iraqi Center for Human Rights and Democracy Studies, Italian Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Journey of Hope, KontraS, Law Student's Forum, Legal and Human Rights Centre, Lifespark, Ligue des Droits de l'Homme, Ligue ivoirienne des Droits de l'Homme, Lutte Pour la Justice, City of Matera, MEDEL, Mothers Against Death Penalty, Mouvement contre le Racisme et pour l'Amitié entre les Peuples, National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, National Lawyers Guild, Nigerian Humanist Movement, Observatoire marocain des prisons, Observatoire National des Prisons, Ordine Provinciale dei Medici-Chirurghi e degli odontoiatri di Firenze, Ordre des avocats du Barreau de Liège, Ordre des avocats des Hauts de Seine, Ordre des Barreaux francophones et germanophones de Belgique, Organisation marocaine des droits humains, Pacific Concerns Resource Centre, Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, Pax Christi Uvira asbl, People of Faith Against the Death Penalty, Puerto Rican Coalition against the Death Penalty, RADHOMA, City of Reggio Emilia, Rights and Democracy, ROTAB, Stop Child Executions, Union Chrétienne pour le Progrès et la Défense des Droits de l'Homme, Unis pour l'abolition de la peine de mort, US Human Rights Network, City of Venice, Victorian Criminal Justice Coalition, Women's Information Consultative Center, World Organisation against Torture.

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LATVIA

In view of the 11th Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations Human Rights Council, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP), would like to communicate several points concerning the situation of the death penalty in Latvia.

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP) gathers 114 members: human rights organizations, professional associations and local authorities on the five continents who have united to campaign for the universal abolition of the death penalty. It was founded in 2002 in Rome. Its actions include the World Day Against the Death Penalty, a ratification campaign of the United Nations Protocol aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and a campaign for the implementation of the UNGA moratorium resolution.

Death penalty

1. Latvia is an abolitionist country for ordinary crimes since 1996. The Criminal Code envisages the death penalty for murder with aggravating circumstances if committed during wartime in its Art. 37 as amended in 2000. As a member state of the Council of Europe, it has ratified Protocol No. 6 to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR) in 1999. Latvia demonstrated its desire to move towards total abolition of capital punishment by signing Protocol No. 13 to the ECHR on 3 May 2002. This Protocol provides for the abolition of capital punishment under all circumstances in times or war as in peacetime. Latvia also firmly expressed its commitment as regards abolition of the death penalty by co-sponsoring and voting in favour of UNGA Resolutions 62/1490 and 63/168 on 18 December 2007 and 2008 for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

2. However, Latvia has not ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. A draft law on the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR was submitted to the Parliament on 21 February 2002, but on May 15, 2002 the legal commission withdrew the law from the first reading. In their response to the ODIHR questionnaire on the death penalty, the Permanent Mission of Latvia to the OSCE stated in July 2008 that Latvia

was in the process of developing legislation for the abolition of the death penalty in all cases. The country was also in the process of ratifying Protocol No. 13 to the ECHR concerning the abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances, which it signed on 3 May 2002. On 19 May 2008, the Government of Latvia endorsed a draft law on the ratification of the Protocol, and parliamentary approval was being sought. Along with the draft law, corresponding amendments to the criminal law and other relevant legislation were being prepared. In its response to the ODIHR questionnaire on the death penalty on 15 July 2010, the Permanent Mission of Latvia to the OSCE stated that the approval of the parliament was still being sought, and that there have been no further developments.

3. The WCADP thus urges Latvia to ratify both the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and Protocol 13 to the ECHR.

It also urges Latvia to abolish the death penalty in the Criminal Code for all crimes, including in times of war.