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UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review

13th Session, 21 May - 4 June 2012

POLAND

In view of the 13th 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 Poland.

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP) gathers 126 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. Poland is an abolitionist country for all crimes since 1998 and has not carried out any executions since 1988. Poland signed the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty on 21 March 2000. However, as of 22 November 2011, Poland has not ratified it yet.
- 2. In the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review for Poland, in Section B paragraph 18, "Turkey asked Poland to provide further information about the state of affairs regarding the process of ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), aiming at the abolition of the death penalty." In paragraph 32, it states that "with respect to the question put by Turkey, the delegation of Poland indicated that in February 2008 the Ministry of Justice launched the ratification of the ICCPR-OP2 and stressed that interministerial consultations were currently under way."
- 3. The World Coalition thus urges Poland to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.