

**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, Mêmes droits pour tous, 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 de Genève, 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, SYNAFEN, 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.

**Executive Secretariat:**

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**World Coalition Against the Death Penalty Press Release**

Initiatives of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty mark the 7th **World Day against the Death Penalty** on Saturday, 10 October 2009. Every year since 2003 abolitionists have organized events around the world on this day to say No to the death penalty. This year, across five continents, petitions, round tables, discussions, debates and exhibitions are planned. To see the complete program of scheduled events, visit: [www.worldcoalition.org/worldday](http://www.worldcoalition.org/worldday)

The World Coalition against the death penalty decided to devote the 2009 edition of World Day to the theme **"teaching abolition"**. By encouraging debates on the death penalty on 10<sup>th</sup> October, the members of the World Coalition would like pupils and students to understand the state of the world they are living in: the severity, and sometimes cruelty, but also the beauty of the human rights ideal. The aim is for them to acquire fundamental knowledge and understand why the death penalty is an attack on basic rights.

This campaign will focus on teaching abolition to the citizens throughout the world and particularly students between 14 and 18 years of age. Several mobilization tools have been developed and are available on the World coalition website: **a pedagogical guide and a law school curriculum on Capital punishment.**

Every year the world takes another step towards universal abolition. In 2009: new countries have abolished the death penalty -Burundi, Togo, the State of New Mexico (USA); or commuted all death sentences -Kenya, Morocco; others have reduced the range of crimes punishable by death -Vietnam, Kazakhstan, and Nicaragua and Brazil have ratified the UN Protocol to abolish the death penalty. Today 139 States have abolished the death penalty in law or in practice.

On the occasion of the **20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the child**, the World Coalition calls on the four countries which are still executing juvenile offenders: Iran, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen, to stop their executions. A Petition to End All Juvenile Executions is available on the World Coalition website.

According to Amnesty International, in total, **24 juvenile offenders were executed in Iran, Saudi Arabia and Yemen** between January 2007 and June 2009.

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**The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty**

Created in Rome in 2002, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty brings together 99 bar associations, trade unions, local governments and non-governmental organizations. It aims at strengthening the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty and at contributing to put an end to death sentences and executions. In 2003, The WCADP has established the World Day against the Death Penalty on 10 October. This event is followed all over the world and especially in countries that continue to use the death penalty. It is now also officially the European Day against Death Penalty.