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Member Organisations:

ACAT Deutschland, ACAT France, ACAT Libéria, Adaleh Center for Human Rights, ADPAN, ALIVE, American Friends Service Committee, Amnesty International, Arab Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Association for the Rights to Live, Association Justice et Miséricorde, Association Libanaise pour L'Education et la Formation, Association Marocaine des Droits Humains, Action pour Education de qualité (Apeq), Avocats Sans Frontières France, Avocats Sans Frontières Guinée, Bahrain Human Rights Society, BAYT AL HIKMA Belarusian Helsinki Committee, City of Braine l'Alleud, California People of Faith working against the death penalty, Centre for Prisoner's Rights, Campaign to end death penalty, Center for Global non Killing, Centre marocain des droits humains, Children Education Society, 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 Des Journalistes Congolais Contre La Peine De Mort, 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, Droits et Paix, Equal Justice USA, Federation of Liberal Students, Fédération Syndicale Unitaire, Forum Africain contre la Peine de Mort, Forum 90 Japan, Forum marocain pour la Vérité et la Justice, Foundation for Human Rights Initiative, German Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Hands Off Cain, Harm Reduction International, Hope & Justice, Human Rights Watch, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, HURILAWS, International Organization for Diplomatic Relations, International commission of jurists, Iranian Human Rights Activists Groups in EU and North America, Iraqi Center for Human Rights and Democracy Studies, Italian Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Japan Innocence and Death Penalty Research Center, Journey of Hope...from Violence to Healing, Kids Against the Death Penalty, KontraS, Law Student's Forum, Leaders Organization, Legal and Human Rights Centre, League of Women Lawyers of Tajikistan, Ligue des Droits de l'Homme, LDVDH, Lifespark, Ligue ivoirienne des Droits de l'Homme, Lutte Pour la Justice, City of Matera, Mauritanian Coalition Against Death Penalty, MEDEL, Mêmes droits pour tous, Michigan Committee Against Capital Punishment, Mothers Against Death Penalty, Mouvement contre le Racisme et pour l'Amitié entre les Peuples, National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, National Association of Criminal Defence Lawyers, 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, Région Toscane, City of Reggio Emilia, Rights and Democracy, Rescue Alternatives Liberia (RAL), 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, Texas Coalition to abolish the death penalty, Think Centre, US Human Rights Network, City of Venice, Victorian Criminal Justice Coalition, Women's Information Consultative Center, Witness to Innocence, World Organisation Against Torture.

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BENIN

In view of the 14th 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 Benin.

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP) gathers 132 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. Benin is a de facto abolitionist country. The last execution in Benin took place in 1987. On 18 August 2011 the National Assembly of Benin counted 54 votes in favour of ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, with only 5 votes against and 6 abstentions. Benin also demonstrated its commitment as regards abolition of the death penalty by co-sponsoring the three UN General Assembly resolutions for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty in 2007, 2008 and 2010.

2. Benin accepted the recommendations made during its UPR in 2008 to consider the abolition of death penalty and to consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. In its midterm assessment dated 7 March 2012, Benin indicated that the ratification process was ongoing.

3. However, as of 1st April 2012, Benin has not yet ratified or acceded to the Second Optional Protocol (the instruments of ratification/accession have not yet been deposited with the UN Secretary General).

There are no obstacles to such ratification: according to Article 7.3 of the Protocol, it “shall be open to accession by any State that has ratified the Covenant or acceded to it.” Benin acceded to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1992 and it is therefore competent to accede to this Protocol. Among the obligations incumbent upon Benin following accession to the Protocol are the prohibition of executions and withdrawal of the death penalty from internal criminal law. Benin had not executed anyone since 1987 and can therefore ratify it.

4. The WCADP thus urges Benin to ratify/accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and to deposit the instrument of ratification/accession with the UN Secretary General as soon as possible.

It also urges Benin to abolish the death penalty in its legislation as soon as possible, as stated in Article 1 of the Protocol: “Each State Party shall take all necessary measures to abolish the death penalty within its jurisdiction.”