

**Executive Board Members**

Florence Bellivier (International Federation of Human Rights Leagues), Elizabeth Zitrin (Death Penalty Focus), Raphaël Chenuil-Hazan (Ensemble contre la peine de mort), Mario Marazziti (Community of Sant'Egidio), Jacky Hortaut (Collectif Unitaire National de Soutien à Mumia Abu-Jamal)

**Steering Committee Members:**

Advocates for Human Rights, Coalition marocaine contre la peine de mort, Collectif Unitaire National de Soutien à Mumia Abu-Jamal, 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 Libanaise pour les Droits Civils 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 Belarussian 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, Centre for Constitutional Rights, Centre for Global non Killing, Centre marocain des droits humains, CGT, Children Education Society, Coalition nationale tunisienne contre la peine de mort, CODHAS, 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, Free Tunisia, German Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Hands Off Cain, Harm Reduction International, Hope & Justice, Human Rights Watch, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, HURLAWS, 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, League of Women Lawyers of Tajikistan, Legal and Human Rights Centre, LEDAP, 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, Poitiers (City of), Puerto Rican Coalition against the Death Penalty, QUNO, RADHOMA, Reggio Emilia (City of), REPECAP, Reprieve Australia, Rescue Alternatives Liberia (RAL), Rights and Democracy, Save Anthony, Stop Child Executions, SYNAFEN, Tuscany, 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, The Death Penalty Project, 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.

**Member Organisations:**

Abdorrahman Boroumand Foundation, 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 Libanaise pour les Droits Civils 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 Belarussian 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, Centre for Constitutional Rights, Centre for Global non Killing, Centre marocain des droits humains, CGT, Children Education Society, Coalition nationale tunisienne contre la peine de mort, CODHAS, 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, Free Tunisia, German Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Hands Off Cain, Harm Reduction International, Hope & Justice, Human Rights Watch, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, HURLAWS, 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, League of Women Lawyers of Tajikistan, Legal and Human Rights Centre, LEDAP, 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, Poitiers (City of), Puerto Rican Coalition against the Death Penalty, QUNO, RADHOMA, Reggio Emilia (City of), REPECAP, Reprieve Australia, Rescue Alternatives Liberia (RAL), Rights and Democracy, Save Anthony, Stop Child Executions, SYNAFEN, Tuscany, 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, The Death Penalty Project, 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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**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

In view of the 18<sup>th</sup> 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 the Dominican Republic.

The World Coalition against the Death Penalty gathers over 145 member organizations: 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 for 2013 include the World Day against the Death Penalty, a ratification campaign of the United Nations Protocol aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, a campaign for the implementation of the UN moratorium resolution, and the 5th World Congress against the Death Penalty.

**Death penalty**

1. The Dominican Republic abolished the death penalty for all crimes in 1966, in accordance with Article 8 (1) of its Constitution which refers to the “inviolability of life” and sets out that “consequently, neither the death penalty nor torture or any other repressive punishment or procedure [...] may be imposed.” On 27 January 2012, the Dominican Republic demonstrated its desire to move towards total abolition of capital punishment by ratifying the Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights to abolish the death penalty. This Protocol provides for the abolition of capital punishment under all circumstances in times or war as in peacetime. The Dominican Republic also expressed its commitment as regards abolition of the death penalty by voting in favour of the four UN General Assembly’s Resolutions on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty in 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012.

2. The Dominican Republic participated to the Universal Periodic Review in December 2009. During the thirteenth session of the Human Rights Council, the Dominican Republic accepted the recommendations of Chile and Italy to ratify/accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

3. However, as of 20 June 2013, the Dominican Republic 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). 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.” The Dominican Republic acceded to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1978 and can therefore become party to the Protocol. Among the obligations incumbent upon the Dominican Republic following accession to the Protocol are the prohibition of executions and withdrawal of the death penalty from internal criminal law. These two obligations have already been fulfilled by the Dominican Republic in practice. Dominican Republic may therefore now unreservedly accede to the Protocol.

4. The WCADP thus urges the Dominican Republic 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.