# **PRESS KIT**



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## THE 5<sup>TH</sup> WORLD CONGRESS AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY AND ITS GUESTS



Since 2001, Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) organises the World Congresses Against the Death Penalty. These international events bring together thousands of members of civil society, political representatives, lawyers and journalists from the five continents with the aim of developing new strategies for universal abolition.

After Strasburg in 2001, Montreal in 2004, Paris in 2007, and Geneva in 2010, Madrid is hosting the 5th World Congress from the 12th to the 15th June 2013. It is organised by ECPM, under the sponsorship of Spain, Norway, Switzerland and France and in partnership with the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

Location: Palacio Municipal de Congresos in Madrid (Avenida Capital de España Madrid 7, Campo de las naciones, Madrid).



#### POLITICAL FIGURES EXPECTED

Mr. Thomas Yayi Boni, President, Benin;

Mr. Thorbjørn Jagland, General Secretary of the Council of Europe;

Mrs. Navanethem Pillay, High Commissioner of the United Nations for Human Rights;

Lady Catherine Ashton, High representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy;

Mr. José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Spain;

Mr. Didier Burkhalter, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Swiss Confederation;

Mr. Laurent Fabius, Minister of Foreign Affairs, France;

Mr. Hamadi Ould Baba Ould Hamadi, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Mauritania;

Mr. Alberto-Ruiz Gallardon, Minister of Justice, Spain;

Mr. Robert Badinter, former minister of Justice who abolished the death penalty in France;

Mrs. Gry Larsen, Vice-minister of Foreign Affairs, Norway;

Mr. Salim Al-Jabouri, President of the Commission of Human Rights of the Parliament, Iraq.



#### NOBEL PRIZE LAUREATES

Mrs. Mairead Maguire, Nobel Prize for Peace, 1976;

Video message from Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Prize for Peace, 1984;

Mr. José Ramos-Horta, former president of East Timor, Nobel Prize for Peace, 1996;

Video message from Mrs. Jody Williams, Nobel Prize for Peace, 1997;

Mrs. Shirin Ebadi, Nobel Prize for Peace, 2003.



#### TESTIMONIES

Mr. Joaquin Martinez, (Spain), former death row prisoner;

Mr. Cándido Ibar (Spain/United States), father of death row prisoner Pablo Ibar;

Mrs. Tanya Ibar, (United States), wife of death row prisoner Pablo Ibar;

Mr. Ahmed Haou, (Morocco), former death row prisoner;

Mr. Chien-Ho SU, Bing-lang LIU, Lin-xun CHUAN, (Taiwan), former death row prisoners;

Mrs. Marina Nemat, (Iran), former death row prisoner;

Mr. Edward Edmary Mpagi, (Uganda), former death row prisoner

Mrs. Jeanne Woodford, (United States), former death row warden in the State of California.







#### THE 5<sup>TH</sup> WORLD CONGRESS AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY IS ALSO:

- An official opening ceremony and a solemn closing ceremony;
- A final march and a gathering;
- Over 1 500 people expected;
- Over 90 countries represented;
- High level political representation;
- Over 200 participants and journalists from retentionist countries;
- 21 debates (plenary sessions, round tables, workshops);
- A rich and diverse cultural programme.

The 5th World Congress Against the Death Penalty is completely trilingual: English, Spanish, French.



#### THE ACTORS OF THE CONGRESS

The World Congresses Against the Death Penalty attract people from all over the five continents: civil society members, lawyers, magistrates, senior officials or representatives from intergovernmental organisations, diplomats, elected officials, journalists, professors, researchers, students...

A particular effort is deployed to facilitate the attendance of participants from retentionist countries, who fight on a daily basis for abolition in their country, often in difficult conditions.

Emphasis is also placed on involving the international diplomatic community and international and intergovernmental institutions. To encourage political impact on countries that have not yet abolished, the representatives of states that have not executed anyone for over ten years, or those for whose political situation leaves hope for legislative reform, are invited to speak.

# CONTEXT AND INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGES



The universal abolition of the death penalty is under way. These past forty years, the planet has undergone real abolitionist changes going from 20% to over 70% of countries having abandoned the implementation of the death penalty.

However, in 2012, at least 682 prisoners were executed in 21 countries<sup>1</sup> and 1722 people were sentenced to death in 58 countries<sup>2</sup>.

In 2012, a large majority of executions carried out took place in Saudi Arabia, China, North Korea, the United States, Iraq, Iran, Sudan and Yemen.

Amongst the countries that retain the death penalty in their legal system, apart from a few democracies such as the United States, Japan and India, death sentences mostly take place in countries under authoritarian regimes. With only one abolitionist country (Djibouti), the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) region is the second region to carry out the highest number of executions after Asia. However, the situation differs depending on the country. If successive executions continue in Iran and Iraq, a trend towards reducing the number of executions and the adoption of penal reforms favourable to the abolitionist movement must be noted in other countries (Morocco, Lebanon and Tunisia).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Excluding China, thousands of executions, data unavailable <sup>2</sup> Source: Amnesty International



#### 5<sup>th</sup> <mark>World Congress</mark> Against the Death Penalty



In March 2011 and April 2012, Illinois and Connecticut became the 16th and 17th States to abolish capital punishment in the United States. Mongolia and Benin took a big step towards abolition by ratifying the Second Optional Protocol related to the International Pact concerning civil and political rights aimed at abolishing the death penalty in January and June 2012. Latvia abolished the death penalty for all crimes in 2012, and has also just ratified the Protocol.

The Governments which maintain capital punishment consider that it is a question which only relates to national law. Yet the application of the death penalty violates international standards and the fundamental principles of law. Too often, the death penalty is handed down as a result of unfair trials, in a discriminatory manner, for non violent crimes, or to juveniles at the time of the crime.

In countries which have abolished in law, pro death penalty movements challenge regularly the question of abolition. Moreover, the risk of seeing the resumption of executions in certain countries, which have not executed for years, remains present. For their part, citizens, organisations for the defense of Human Rights or legal professionals from retentionist countries who are opposed to the death penalty, are faced daily with important political, legal and religious obstacles. Often a minority by far, they struggle to make their voices heard by an ill informed public who wrongly imagines the death penalty as an essential way to fight crime efficiently.

# STRATEGY AND ORGANISATION



#### OBJECTIVES OF THE CONGRESS

- Focus on the dynamics in the MENA region;
- Encourage the involvement of intergovernmental organisations, in conjunction with civil society;
- Educate and raise awareness of the public, notably Spanish, concerning the abolition of the death penalty.



#### INVOLVEMENT OF STATES AND POLITICAL MOBILISATION

To ensure political mobilisation, an informal diplomatic network or Core Group has been organised, ECPM coordinates it. Its brings together active countries in the worldwide abolitionist campaign which are involved more specifically with the 5th World Congress (Argentina, Spain, France, Morocco, Mexico, Norway, Rwanda, Turkey, Switzerland) as well as a representative from the International Commission Against the Death Penalty and ECPM. As well as guaranteeing a high level of political representation at the Congress, the Core Group encourages countries to begin campaigns for the abolitionist movement: implementation of a universal moratorium and ratification of the Second Optional Protocol related to the International Pact concerning civil and political rights, aimed at the abolition of the death penalty.



#### DEFINING THE PROGRAMME OF THE DEBATES

The programme of the debates of the 5<sup>th</sup> World Congress Against the Death Penalty is developed by an academic committee, which brings together a representative from the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, ECPM, the International Academic Network for the abolition of capital punishment, the Law University of Oslo and the Moroccan Organisation for Human Rights. The programme is then implemented in partnership with the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty.





# CONGRESS PROGRAMME



# OFFICIAL CEREMONIES AND FINAL MARCH

#### Official opening ceremony:

Wednesday 12 June 2013 at 5pm, Palacio Municipal de Congresos in Madrid (Avenida Capital de España Madrid 7, Campo de las naciones, Madrid)

#### Solemn closing ceremony:

Saturday 15 June 2013 at 10.30 am, Cines Callao.

#### Final march:

Saturday 15 June 2013 at 12.30, plaza Callao.



## PROGRAMME OF THE DEBATES

Thursday 13 June 2013		
9.30am - 11.30am	The Mena region:	
	Structure and reinforce the abolitionist debate (Plenary session)	
12.00 – 2pm	Terrorism and abolition (Workshop)	
12.00 – 2pm	Iran (Round table)	
12.00 – 2pm	Legal and diplomatic strategies for death row prisoners abroad	
	(Round table)	
3.30pm - 5h.30pm	Teach abolition: sharing of tools and experiences (Workshop)	
3.30pm - 5h.30pm	The Caribbean: The death penalty in the region (Round table)	
3.30pm - 5.30pm	Regional Parliamentarian Networks (Round table)	
5.45pm - 7.30pm	Intergovernmental organisations and civil society (Workshop)	
5.45pm - 7.30pm	Juveniles and the death penalty (Round table)	
5.45pm – 7.30pm	Sub-Saharan Africa (Round table)	

#### Friday 14 June 2013

rnday 14 June 201	13
9.30am – 11.30am	Asia (Plenary session)
12.00 – 2pm	Families of victims: a network for international actions (Workshop)
12.00 – 2pm	Abolition and alternative sentences in the world (Round table)
12.00 – 2pm	Innocence and Abolition (Round table)
12.00 – 2pm	A new tool: a manual for lawyers defending those charged with a capital
	crime (Workshop)
3.30pm - 5h.30pm	Abolitionist strategies: the campaign for abolition in California
	(Workshop)
3.30pm - 5h.30pm	Europe: strategies for the future (Round table)
3.30pm - 5h.30pm	Drug trafficking and the death penalty: Fighting against trafficking
	without funding countries that execute (Round table)
5.45pm – 7.30pm	The death penalty and torture (Workshop)
5.45pm - 7.30pm	United States: the abolition situation (Round table)
5.45pm – 7.30pm	China: tools for defense lawyers (Workshop)







#### CULTURAL PROGRAM

#### Before the Congress

- "Abolition is being exported in Madrid", screening programme organised in collaboration with Spanish and foreign cultural institutes in Madrid.
- "Living 20 years in 6 m2", happening in the heart of Madrid.

#### Thursday 13 June 2013

"19 steps, arms crossed". Performance at the centre for contemporary creation Intermediae - Matadero

#### Friday 14 June 2013

Evening dedicated to the laureates of the Nobel Prize for Peace and testimonies from former death row prisoners and their loved ones.

#### Thursday 13 June 2013 and Friday 14 June 2013

Palacio Municipal de Congresos in Madrid

- "An interrupted dream", exhibition by the Iranian artist Shirin Salehi.
- Exhibition of Caricatures by Kianoush Ramezani, Iranian cartoonist.
- Exhibition Poster for Tomorrow.
- « Draw me the abolition », Franco-Spanish drawing contest.
- "Words beyond death row", extracts of testimonies from death row prisoners illustrated by the screening of photographies, in partnership with PhotoEspaña.
- Exhibition of campaigning posters.

# CONGRESS ORGANIZER



#### TOGETHER AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY CECPMD

#### Unite abolitionists from all over the world

Since 2000, ECPM fights for the universal abolition of capital punishment. Backbone of civil society at the heart of World Congresses Against the Death Penalty and of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty of which it is a founding member, ECPM has become a privileged partner of countries on concerted actions. The association coordinates an informal group of nine countries, Core Group, which involve their diplomacy in favour of abolition and the Congresses. ECPM also works to create abolitionist parliamentarian networks.



#### Strengthen the capacities of local partners and work with them

ECPM helps abolitionists by initiating meetings to assist them in organising, interacting and promoting the creation of national and regional Coalitions against the death penalty. ECPM supports local partners in their functioning and co-organises events to promote the abolition in retentionist and de facto abolitionist countries.

ECPM is particularly active in the MENA region, with the Moroccan, Tunisian and Lebanese Coalitions Against the Death Penalty as well as with the Coalition for central and eastern Africa in partnership with the association Culture for Peace and Justice (DRC) and the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (Uganda).

#### Inform, educate and raise awareness among the public

ECPM is committed to teaching abolition, even in abolitionist countries. Because the death penalty will only definitively disappear once it is abolished in conscience, the association develops informative and awareness raising tools for all:

- Abolition.fr and its monthly newsletter, the mail de l'abolition shared with over 30 000 people;
- The Abolition Journal, 10 000 copies printed in partnership with Ouest-France.



#### 5<sup>th</sup> World Congress Against the Death Penalty



Since 2009, ECPM is developing an educational programme to teach abolition designed for teachers and educational institutions (presentations, training on the problematic of capital punishment and the reasons for its abolition, educational material and dedicated courses). In partnership with local actors, this educational programme is available outside of France, in Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon and Spain.

#### Act in favour of death row prisoners throughout the world

- ECPM leads investigative missions on death rows to publish reports which give hindisght on the living and penal conditions of prisoners: in 2005 the Democratic Republic of Congo (awarded the Human Rights award by the French Republic), in 2006 in Rwanda and in 2007 in Burundi. In 2010, ECPM went to the United States to carry out an investigative mission in eight States: California, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Virginia. The association has just carried out investigative missions in Tunisia and Morocco.
- The "Espace Condamné" section of the website abolition.fr presents 474 information sheets concerning death row prisoners from over 36 different countries and makes it possible for citizens to write to them.
- Lastly, ECPM addresses the urgency of a death sentence through international campaigns.



#### CONGRESS SPONSOR STATES











#### CONGRESS PARTNER



#### World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

Made up of over 140 NGO's, Bar Associations, local collectivities and unions from all continents, the World Coalition aims to reinforce the international aspect of the fight against the death penalty. The World Coalition brings a global dimension to the actions undertaken by its members on the terrain, sometimes

isolated. It is complementary with their initiatives, in the respect of each person's independence. The World Coalitions ultimate goal is to obtain the universal abolition of the death penalty. It encourages a permanent end to death sentences and executions everywhere where the death penalty is still in use. In certain countries, it seeks to obtain a reduction in the use of capital punishment as a first step towards abolition.

The World Coalition is committed to reaching these goals through lobbying and campaigns with an international reach:

**World Day against the death penalty:** In 2003 the World Coalition launched the first World Day Against the Death Penalty. In 2007, the Council of Europe and the European Union officially recognised the World Day as a European Day Against the Death Penalty. Aimed at civil society, it raises awareness of public opinion concerning the arguments in favour of the universal abolition of the death penalty.

Campaign for a universal moratorium on executions: the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty actively participated in getting people involved in favour of the adoption of the resolution for a moratorium on the application of the death penalty voted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, since 2007.

**Ratification campaign:** The Second Optional Protocol related to the International Pact concerning civil and political rights and the regional protocols are essential mechanisms destined to reinforce and perpetuate the abolition of the death penalty in the world.



#### 5<sup>TH</sup> WORLD CONGRESS AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY



The World Coalition supports national and regional abolitionists. It helps with the development of professional networks against the death penalty, including parliamentarians and criminal defense lawyers who defend death row prisoners all over the world.

The World Coalition is the main partner of the International Centre of the NorthwesternLaw University for the creation of a database on the death penalty in the world. (www.deathpenaltyworldwide.org).

The World Coalition and its members participate in the preparation of a debate programme for the Congress in Madrid.



### OTHER PARTNERS

#### States, intergovernmental organisations and territorial collectivities:



With the financia support of the European Union

















#### Academic committee:









#### Core group:















#### **Cultural partners:**









### PHOTOESPAÑA2013 **poster for tom**orrow

#### Others:









SANT'EGIDIO









# HISTORY OF THE WORLD CONGRESSES AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY



#### STRASBURG 2001

The 1st World Congress was held in the Chambers of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament in Strasburg in 2001, in the presence of 22 parliamentary presidents and, for the first time, abolitionists from all over the world. This gathering led to the creation of, in 2002, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty and the instauration of the first World Day Against the Death Penalty in 2003.



#### MONTREAL 2004

Montreal welcomed the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Congress Against the Death Penalty, organised by ECPM and Penal Reform International. The Congress brought together diplomats, NGO's, journalists and citizens from 64 countries. This Congress mainly focused on the United States, the development of regional approaches and questions of criminal policy in the fight against the death penalty.



#### PARIS 2007

Placed under the high patronage of Jacques Chirac and Angela Merkel, the 3rd Congress was marked by an official declaration by the European Union, solemn messages from the pope, the Dalai Lama, unprecedented interventions by Chinese abolitionists and by state representatives who still have the death penalty in their legislation such as Morocco and Benin. The work accomplished concerned China in the perspective of the Olympic Games and on abolitionist perspectives in North Africa and the Middle East.



#### GENEVA 2010

Following from an invitation from Switzerland, the 4th World Congress Against the Death Penalty took place in Geneva, "the cradle of Human Rights", from 24 to 26 February 2010. It benefited from the support of numerous European countries and of the International Organisation for French speaking countries (OIF). The level of political representation remains unprecedented with no less than 53 diplomatic delegations. The Congress in Geneva was also a remarkable success, with over 1500 participants, and in terms of media with over 250 000 web references and 1200 articles in at least 30 countries.

The Congress in Geneva opened with an official invitation from Spain to establish the 5th World Congress in Madrid. By setting the ambitious aim of a universal moratorium by 2015, and by announcing its commitment, it put forward the importance of coordinating work between civil society and governments for universal abolition.



#### REGIONAL CONGRESS ABOUT THE DEATH PENALTY IN RABAT

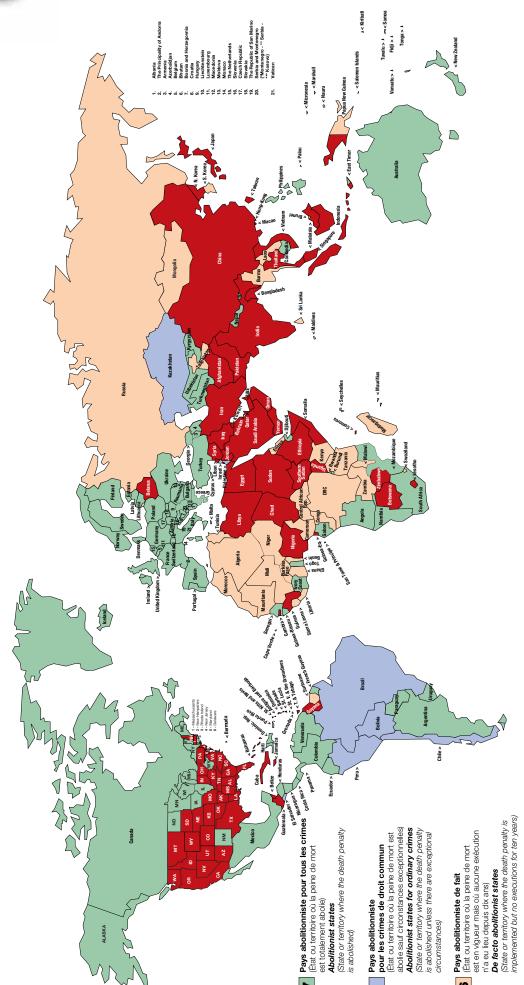
The Regional Congress in Rabat (18 – 20 October 2012) is part of the continuity of the World Congresses Against the death penalty: designed as an event in itself which pursued aims specific to the MENA region, it was an essential step in preparing the 5th World Congress in Madrid.

Over 400 lawyers, magistrates, parliamentarians, sociologists, theologians, journalists, members of NGO's and abolitionists got together for this first international abolitionist event in the MENA region.

The Congress in Rabat was marked by the launch of the first parliamentarian abolitionist network in the Arab world (Morocco) and the joint statement of approximately ten parliamentarians from the region on a commitment to structure a regional network. It initiated the launch of the Maghreb Coalition Against the Death Penalty which includes Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia.

The Congress was organised in partnership with the Moroccan Organisation for Human Rights (OMDH), the International Bar Association Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI) and in association with the Moroccan Coalition Against the Death Penalty (CMCPM).







circumstances)

36

97

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Pays rétentionniste
(État ou territoire appliquant la peine de mort)
Retentionist states
(State or territory where the death penalty is implemented)



# MEDIA AT THE CONGRESS

#### ACCREDITATIONS

Journalists who wish to follow and cover the 5th World Congress Against the Death Penalty must send their requests for accreditations and interviews to:

- (for English speaking journalists) Mr. Raphaël Mosca, E-mail: rmosca@abolition.fr
- (for Spanish speaking journalists) Mr. Adrien Dubois, E-mail : adubois@abolition.fr
- (for French speaking journalists) Mrs. Desislava Raoul, E-mail: draoul@abolition.fr

The application for accreditation during the Congress can be done on line, or at the press desk of the Congress at the Palacio Municipal de Congresos in Madrid, if a press card is presented.



#### PRESS ROOM AND TECHNICAL MEANS FOR THE MEDIA

A press room is made available to accredited journalists at the Congress.

An "interview" area in the press room is made available to media representatives (journalists filming live have the priority and must register beforehand with the Congress press service).

Technical means are offered to the media for live filming.



#### PRESS EVENTS

"Words from death row prisoners", Wednesday 5 June at 11am at the Centro Internacional de Prensa in Madrid. Speakers:

Mr. Raphaël Chenuil-Hazan, (France), director of Ensemble contre la peine de mort;

Mr. Joaquin Martinez, (Spain), former death row prisoner;

Mr. Cándido Ibar, (Spain/United States) father of death row prisoner Pablo Ibar;

Mr. Ahmed Haou, (Morocco), former death row prisoner.

"The ambitions and challenges of the 5th World Congress Against the Death Penalty", press conference in presence of important representatives and Nobel Prize winners invited to the Congress, Wednesday 12 June at 3.30pm at the Palacio Municipal de Congresos.

Press points are planned to resume the work and debates of the 5th World Congress Against the Death Penalty and to enable journalists to react and ask questions after each event of the official Congress programme.



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