

CONGRÈS MONDIAL CONTRE LA PEINE DE MORT

世界反对死刑大会

المؤتمر العالمي ضد عقوبة الإعدام

CONGRESO MUNDIAL CONTRA LA PENA DE MUERTE

ВСЕМИРНЫЙ КОНГРЕСС ПРОТИВ СМЕРТНОЙ КАЗНИ

WORLD CONGRESS AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

Geneva 2010

24-25-26 February

international Conferences Centre Geneva



DEATH PENALTY
ABOLITION
NOW

Organisé par

*Ensemble
contre
la peine
de mort*

Avec le parrainage de



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AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

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4th World Congress Against the Death Penalty

The 4th World Congress Against the Death Penalty will be held from 24 to 26 February 2010 in Geneva. It is organised by the French NGO Ensemble contre la peine de mort (ECPM) in partnership with the Swiss Confederation and the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

Many key figures have already confirmed their presence: **Mrs. Micheline Calmy-Rey**, Federal Councilor, Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland, **Mr. José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero**, Head of Spanish government, **Mrs. Navanethem Pillay**, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, **Mr. Abdou Diouf**, Secretary General of the International Organization of la Francophonie, **Mr. Bill Richardson**, Governor of Nuevo Mexico, **Mrs. Renate Wohlwend**, rapporteur of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly on the Death Penalty, **Mr. Ibrahim Najjar**, Lebanese Minister of Justice, **Mr. Yayi Boni**, President of the Republic of Benin, **Mr. Jonas Gahr Støre**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Mr. Robert Badinter**, former Attorney General and instrumental in French abolition, **Mr. Ahmed Herzenni**, Chairman of the Advisory Council for Human Rights of Morocco, **Mrs. Shirin Ebadi**, Iraqi lawyer and Nobel Peace Prize 2003, **Mrs. Emily Loizeau**, Franco-British singer, **Sister Helen Prejean**, who has a strong commitment to the abolitionist combat in USA.

More than 1,000 participants will attend the two Plenary sessions, ten Roundtables and nine Workshops. A cultural programme aimed at the general public will also be organised in parallel at the International Conference Centre in Geneva and within the city, world capital city of human rights and home to a number of international organisations.

Goals for “Geneva 2010”

The World Congress Against the Death Penalty is a triennial opportunity to bring together abolitionist groups, strengthen the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty and draw up common strategies with a view to universal abolition. More specifically, the 4th Congress will pursue the following goals:

- To strengthen ties between civil society, international and intergovernmental institutions and organisations (NGOs, the Arab League, the OIF, the OSCE, the Council of Europe, the OAS, the African Union, etc.) as well as national and local entities in support of the abolitionist movement;
- To involve players of retentionist States from so-called Southern regions in the defining and the leading of abolitionist strategies;
- To increase the political, diplomatic, religious, social and cultural impact on retentionist States;
- To enlarge the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty and to encourage the building of National and Regional Coalitions;
- To raise global awareness among the public, in favor of the urgent need for global abolition.

Scientific programme

Opening session at the United Nations with various personalities coming from all around the world

Two Plenary Sessions:

- **International and Regional Organizations: commitments to abolition of the death penalty.**
How to strengthen cooperation between UNO, other Intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to create common and effective strategies for abolition;
- **Next challenges for universal abolition: the examples of USA, Japan, China and Iran**

Ten Roundtables:

- Racial, ethnic, and social bias in the death penalty implementation: are political and social commitments to equality effective tools for abolition?
- Protecting vulnerable groups from death penalty: juveniles and those with mental health issues
- Violence, victims and death penalty: how to respond to violence and compensate victims without the death penalty
- Religions and death penalty, opportunities and/or obstacles
- Approaching law enforcement issues without the death penalty: legal and public order's points of view
- Tools and strategies for death penalty abolition in Middle East and North Africa
- Sub-Saharan Africa, from moratorium to abolition in law
- Asia, the legal road to moratorium and abolition
- Access to a competent counsel in capital cases: how lawyers can make the difference between life and death?
- The Caribbean: the continued danger of escalating executions

Nine Workshops:

- Elaborating arguments to convince public opinion
- Defining strategies for abolition
- Promoting abolition through academic research and collaboration
- Advocacy actions towards politicians
- Coalition development
- Partnership NGOs-Institutions for abolition
- Online communication strategies
- Sharing educational tools
- Mobilizing target groups (members of parliament, judges, public order's officers...)

**Solemn ceremony to proclaim
the final Declaration of the 4th World Congress**

Geneva 2010 + 4th World Congress Against the Death Penalty

Cultural Programme

A cultural programme aimed at the general public will consider the issues surrounding capital punishment from an artistic angle. Its aim is to take the abolitionist movement beyond the intervention of political leaders, the expertise of the legal world and NGOs.

Two evenings of events:

- **Last Day of a Condemned Man** by Victor Hugo, a piece of theater followed by a cocktail reception (at the Theater “La Comédie” in Geneva)
- « **Words of Victims** »: an evening during which former death-row inmates and families of victims of crime, execution witnesses, etc. tell their stories. This series of painful stories will be accompanied by the interludes animated by the Franco-British singer Emily Loizeau (at the Bâtiment des Forces Motrices (BFM)).

An Art Installation in the heart of the Congress, a figurative work representing an electric chair, an operating table for lethal injection, a gallows or a guillotine (at the CICG).

Exhibits:

- **“Faces and testimonies of the death-penalty”**: Photos and interviews by Caroline Planque. This exhibit is a series of portraits of victims, relatives or death penalty activists (at the CICG).
- **“Abolitionists cartoons”** : 60 cartoons translating the abolitionist arguments through the universality of humour. This exhibit is organized by the ECPM and Cartooning for Peace, in partnership with Geneva City, the OIF and the Uni-Mail University. The exhibit will be displayed at Uni-Mail University from February 1st, and will be transferred at the CICG for the benefit of the participants. “Abolitionist cartoons” introduces the debate with political cartoonists, including Patrick Chappate (Switzerland), Jeff Danzinger (USA), Damien Glez (Burkina Faso) and Norio (Japan).
- **“On the way to universal abolition”**: 16 panels (French and English version) showing the evolution and the present situation of death penalty in the world (at the CICG);
- **“The Omega Suites”** : a photo exhibit of Lucinda Devlin referring to the process of killing in the United States (at the Center of Photography, with the Geneva Lawyer’s Order).

Film and documentaries screenings on the death penalty issue from several countries: Several have been selected in order to offer a panel of death penalty cases at different periods, from different cultural, religious and political backgrounds.

Stands (Information Tables): the partners of 'Geneva 2010' present to the participants of the Congress the documentary tools allowing the audience to discover the NGOs and their actions.

Congress Library: a bookstore dedicated to the topic located within the CICC will sell books and films, and offer signing activities.

Poster Space. The Posters are conceived and presented by the Civil society, NGO representatives, researchers, students, local or regional institutions, working for public as well as private sectors from the whole world (at the CICC).

Final event and abolitionist public meeting outside the Palais des Nations.

Previous Congresses

- **The 1st World Congress Against the Death Penalty was held in 2001 in Strasbourg**, in the hemicycle of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament. It led to the creation of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty and the World Day Against the Death Penalty on October 10.
- **The 2nd World Congress Against the Death Penalty was organized by ECPM and Penal Reform International in Montreal in 2004**. It aimed at highlighting regional approaches in the political fight against the death penalty. Special attention was paid to the United States on the eve of the presidential elections.
- **The 3rd World Congress Against the Death Penalty was held in 2007 in Paris**. It was organized by ECPM under the patronage of Angela Merkel and Jacques Chirac following the execution of Saddam Hussein and the 30th anniversary of the return of executions in the United States. An alliance of 130 experts from across the world, 150 journalists and more than 500 participants contributed to the official adoption of resolutions taken by the UN General Assembly calling for a universal moratorium. Debates led to an acute awareness of the reality of the death penalty in China. The Congress also united the abolitionist movement around the case of the Bulgarian nurses and Palestinian doctor then held on death row in Libyan prisons, widely covered in the media.

The death penalty and the abolitionist movement in 2010

In 2008, 90% of recorded executions took place in five countries only:

Saudi Arabia – at least 102 people, 39 of them were foreigners.

China – 1,700 executions according to Amnesty International record and 6,000 according to the Dhui Hua Foundation.

The United States – 37 executions - 18 of them in Texas- the lowest figure since 1994.

Iran – 346 people executed, 8 of them were under 18 when they allegedly committed their crimes.

Pakistan – at least 36 executions.

In 58 countries, the law still provides for capital punishment. Although democracies such as the United States and Japan still execute people, the majority of the death sentences are carried out by authoritarian governments. Geographically speaking, executions mostly take place in Asian and Arabic countries and also in some parts of the Caribbean.

Over the past forty years, the planet has experienced a marked progression in favor of abolition with the percentage of abolitionist countries passing from 20% to 70% in the world. A third of the world states still resort to death penalty.

Governments which retain the death penalty regard it as being an issue that exclusively under national law. In fact, the use of the death penalty contravenes international norms and the fundamental principles of law. The verdict is too frequently delivered after an unfair trial; it is too often discriminatory or applied for nonviolent crimes or for people underage when the crime was committed.

Furthermore, in the abolitionist States, pro-death penalty movements regularly challenge the existing situation. It's the case of Mexico. There is a permanent risk that some de facto abolitionist countries may resume executions; we can quote the case of Jamaica where the issue is presently under debate. In many countries, abolitionists remain lonely activists.

For their part, every day, ordinary citizens and human rights activists, international law university teachers, lawyers, who voice their opposition to the death penalty in retentionist States, face major political, judiciary or religious obstacles. Very much a minority group, they strive to make their cause popular to a wider public usually poorly informed, for whom it is unquestionable that death penalty is a deterrent against criminality.

“Geneva 2010” organizers:

Ensemble contre la peine de mort (ECPM – End to Capital Punishment Movement or Together Against the Death Penalty).



Since 2000 ECPM has been campaigning against the death penalty throughout the world. This French NGO seeks to bring together and mobilize international advocates of abolition, to promote worldwide abolition through educational and informative initiatives and tools, to raise public awareness, to help strengthen the campaigning capacity of abolitionist activists and to work with them, and finally to campaign on behalf of individuals sentenced to death around the world.

Bringing together abolitionist campaigners from around the world

Every three years, ECPM organizes the World Congress Against the Death Penalty which brings together abolitionists from around the world in order to elaborate and refine strategies for regional and international actions aimed at achieving worldwide abolition. ECPM initiated the creation of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty and has held the coordinating role of executive secretariat of the World Coalition since its creation in 2002.

Informing, educating and raising public awareness

To raise public awareness of the death penalty worldwide, ECPM has a French reference Website : www.abolition.fr. It also produces the ‘Abolition Mail’, a monthly newsletter, a newspaper (Journal de l’Abolition) and various post-Congresses reports in French and in English. ECPM is committed to engaging with as wide a public as possible in order to promote abolition. Every year ECPM participates in the most important meetings about Human Rights struggle (Paris Gay Pride, with its chariot No Homo in the scaffold –Pas d’Homo à l’échafaud-, peace initiatives room, Human rights book meetings, world human rights forum, etc...)

ECPM also develops educational tools, including an exhibit "On the way to universal abolition" to teach abolition in primary schools, high schools, universities, local communities, or NGOs and can be seen both in francophone countries which have abolished and those which maintain the death penalty.

Strengthening the capacities of local partners and working with them

ECPM initiates discussions meetings in order to invite abolitionist players, interact and encourage the creation of national and regional Coalitions. ECPM supports the activities of abolitionist campaigners through technical support, consulting, the sharing of expertise and assistance in the development of action plans and of tools for mobilizing support, raising awareness and sharing information about one target area chosen by year. ECPM supports the activities of abolitionists through technical support, the sharing of expertise and assistance in the development of action plans and of tools for mobilizing support.

ECPM co-organizes events promoting the abolition of the death penalty, in partnership with retentionist countries and abolitionists de facto (seminaries, lobbying, campaigning...).

■ **Act on behalf of individuals sentenced to death around the world**

ECPM carries out research missions on death row. The first three such missions were undertaken in the African Great Lakes region (France awarded the mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo with its national prize for human rights). Further research is planned, in particular in the United States in 2010.

The 'condemned' space on the ECPM website www.abolition.fr, gives the public the necessary tools to exchange correspondence with prisoners on death row.

Lastly, ECPM responds to urgent situations arising from the passing of a death sentence through international mobilization campaigns and support for the lawyers defending the individuals who have been sentenced.

■ **Partners:**

■ **Swiss Confederation**



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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During the 3rd World Congress Against the Death Penalty, held in Paris in 2007, Micheline Calmy-Rey Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, invited the event's organizer to hold the next Congress in Geneva. Abolition of capital punishment is a foreign policy priority in Switzerland which regard to promoting and protecting human rights. The Congress will provide a good platform for abolition of the death penalty on a world scale, in conformity with Switzerland's goals in this area. Switzerland is co-funding half of the Congress' budget.

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■ **The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty**



was created in Rome on May 13, 2002. It is composed of 104 bar associations, cities, local groups, unions and NGOs including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, PRI, FIDH, FIACAT, etc. The World Coalition is administered by ECPM which, since its creation in 2002, has provided the executive secretariat. It is actively supported by the European Union.

The World Coalition aims at strengthening the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty. Its ultimate goal is to obtain definitive abolition of death sentences and executions in all nations. In some countries, it seeks to obtain a reduction in the use of capital punishment as the first step towards abolition.

The World Coalition brings a global dimension to the work carried out by its members on the ground, sometimes in isolation. The Coalition has also made October 10, the World Day Against the Death Penalty.

avec l'aide financière
de l'Union Européenne



ORGANISATION
INTERNATIONALE DE
la francophonie



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
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Irish Aid
Department of Foreign Affairs
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha



**NORWEGIAN MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**



Kanton Zug



Région
PAYS DE LA LOIRE

**ORDRE DES AVOCATS
DE GENÈVE**



LE TEMPS
MÉDIA SUISSE DE RÉFÉRENCE

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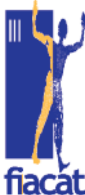


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Media during the 4th World Congress Against the Death Penalty

Accreditations

Journalists wishing to attend and cover the 4th World Congress Against the Death Penalty can *request their accreditations on the “Congress” tab of www.abolition.fr*, the Website of, Together Against the Death Penalty, tab where journalists will find all the communications tools they need: press pack, press release, banners, teasers, etc.

During the Congress, **accreditation requests are also possible, at the press welcome desk of the International Conference Center, on presentation of a valid press card.**

Important! For security reasons, journalists wishing to cover the Congress Opening session (February 24, 9h30 – 12pm, Human Rights Room, at the Palais des Nations) and to attend the press conference counting on the presence of important personalities must request their accreditations before Tuesday February 16).

Media areas and technical services within the CICC

A Press Room is available to accredited journalists. Personal boxes are prepared for each accredited journalists. They will be given a congress kit, a congress presentation pack, a press kit and press releases, as well as invitations to attend the two unique Congress evenings.

A “Press Point” space allows journalists to react and to ask questions after each event of the Congress official programme.

An “Interview” Area located in the **Press Room** is available for electronic media representatives (the journalists broadcasting “live” have priority. Previous registration at the media welcome desk of the Congress is compulsory).

Technical services are offered to TV stations allowing them to broadcast “live”. Vehicles can park on the esplanade located just outside the Press Room.

Desks and a few connected workstations are available in the Press Room.

Telephone lines, in the Press Room, allow journalists to be easily contacted by their media/newsroom.

Documents including the biographies and the contact details of the Congress participants are handed out to accredited journalists.

A VIP lounge is available for journalists to interview the personalities attending the Congress.

■ Press Events

Press Conferences:

Ambitions and challenges of the 4th World Congress Against the Death Penalty, to inform a wide audience about the aims of the Congress and the focuses of a three-day scientific and cultural event, a Press Conference including politicians and personalities attending the opening ceremony of the Congress, Wednesday February 24, at 12h15 pm (after the opening session) at the Palais des Nations.

Final declaration of the 4th World Congress Against the Death Penalty, a final Press Conference at the CICG with politicians and personalities attending the solemn ceremony, Friday, February 26, at 12h30 pm (after the solemn ceremony and before the abolitionist demonstration at the Place des Nations).

Press Points:

Two « Press Points » are organized both on **Wednesday and Thursday, February 24 and 25, at 5h30 pm**, in order to summarize the daily events and debates. **Other Press Points are programmed**, responding to journalists requests **concerning the debates of the official programme** (cultural and scientific) during the three days of the Congress.

■ “Southern Countries” Media during the 4th World Congress Against the Death Penalty

The French NGO Together against the death penalty (ECPM, Ensemble contre la peine de mort), organizer of the 4th World Congress, wishes to help the media coming from retentionist so-called “Southern countries”, committed to the abolitionist cause but lacking financial resource to cover the travel and accommodation fees for one of their journalist to cover the Congress. **ECPM thus covers the expenses of media representatives from the following countries: Afghanistan, Alger, Burundi, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, India, Lebanon, Niger, Puerto Rico, Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad, Togo and Vietnam.**

■ International Media Coverage in the previous Congresses

The World Congresses against the death penalty are traditionally covered by journalists from the whole world. In ‘Montreal 2004’, 112 journalists were registered. Press agencies and more than one hundred and fifty journalists from European countries and the rest of the world attended ‘Paris 2007’. The event was cited 113,000 times on the Internet.



Geneva – 24-25-26 february 2010

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ECPM

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Information and Free Registration on the Congress space of the ECPM website
www.abolition.fr