

6<sup>TH</sup>  
21-23  
JUNE  
2016  
OPERA  
HOUSE

# WORLD CONGRESS AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY OSLO



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# CONTENTS

THE COMPLEX INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT <b>IS A CHALLENGE FOR THE ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT</b> .....	4
OUR <b>GUESTS</b> .....	5
<b>TESTIMONIES</b> .....	6
<b>CONGRESS</b> PROGRAMME .....	8
<b>ECPM</b> -TOGETHER AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY .....	10
OUR <b>PARTNERS</b> .....	11
<b>THE MEDIA</b> AT THE CONGRESS .....	12





# THE COMPLEX INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT IS A CHALLENGE FOR THE ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT

With 140 countries and territories having abolished the death penalty in law or practice, and a decreasing number of countries carrying out executions, **abolition appears to be a universal trend**. Since the World Congress in Madrid, a number of victories have been claimed in the fight for abolition, and many retentionist countries have either abolished the death penalty in practice, or have restricted its use to certain crimes or certain categories of people. Four countries should be commended for putting an end to the death penalty over the course of 2015: the Republic of the Congo, Fiji, Madagascar, and Surinam.

**Over the past ten years, however, many countries have passed counterterrorist laws which expand the scope of the death penalty.** Recently, Pakistan, Jordan, and Chad resumed executions under the banner of the fight against terrorism, revoking a moratorium which had been in place for years.

**In 2015, at least 1,634 prisoners were executed across 25 countries, and 1,998 people were sentenced to death across 61 countries, a record for the past 25 years.** In that landscape, the advance of the abolitionist trend still encounters great resistance across Asia and the Arab world. Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Iran were responsible for 89 % of recorded executions in 2015. Those figures don't take China into account, where information pertaining to the death penalty is classified as State secret.

Particular attention was given to Southeast Asia in 2015, and the Regional Congress Against the Death Penalty was held in Malaysia. To ensure a follow-up, **Asia will be given a prominent place during the World Congress**, with a plenary session dedicated to the progress and setbacks of our cause on the Asian continent.

In countries where the death penalty is abolished in law, abolition is regularly called into question by pro-death penalty movements. Citizens and human rights organisations fighting against the death penalty often face huge political, legal, and religious barriers. **The support from National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI) in the abolitionist struggle is therefore crucial** and must be accentuated to achieve sustainable goals. That is why the second plenary session will be dedicated to them.

We must now hope that the march forward, which was halted in 2015, can kick on stronger than ever. **2016 is looking promising:** rumours of abolition are emanating from Guinea and Burkina Faso. Mongolia has just made abolition official after its Parliament voted an amendment to its Penal Code.

**The 6<sup>th</sup> World Congress Against the Death Penalty, organised by ECPM, will be an unmissable chance to give new impetus to the movement and to continue our journey towards universal abolition!**



## OUR 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 Strasbourg in 2001, Montreal in 2004, Paris in 2007, Geneva in 2010 and Madrid in 2013, Oslo is hosting the 6<sup>th</sup> World Congress from June 21 to 23, 2016. It is organised by ECPM, under the sponsorship of Norway, France and Australia and in partnership with the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty.**

### POLITICAL FIGURES EXPECTED

- **Mr Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein**, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- **Mr Thorbjørn Jagland**, Secretary General of the Council of Europe
- **Mrs Michaëlle Jean**, Secretary General of the International Organisation of Francophonie
- **Mr Borge Brende**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Norway
- **Mr Jean Marc Ayrault**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, France
- **Mr Mangala Samaweera**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sri Lanka
- **Mr Didier Burkhalter**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland
- **Mr Ang Vong Vathana**, Minister of Justice, Cambodia
- **Mr Ashraf Rifi**, Minister of Justice, Lebanon
- **Mr Alexis Thanbwe Mwanba**, Minister of Justice, Democratic Republic of Congo
- **Mr André Vallini**, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, France
- **Mr Benedetto Della Vedova**, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Italy
- **Mr Phillip Ruddock**, Special Envoy for Human Rights, Australia
- **Mr Robert Badinter**, former Minister of Justice who abolished the death penalty in France

### NOBEL PEACE PRIZE LAUREATES

- **Mr Abdessattar Ben Moussa**, member of the Tunisian Quartet Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2015
- **Mr Mohamed Fadhel Mahfoudh**, member of the Tunisian Quartet Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2015
- **Mr Ouided Bouchamaoui**, member of the Tunisian Quartet Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 2015
- Video message **Archbishop Desmond Tutu**, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate 1997



**SUNNY JACOBS**  
Former death row  
prisoner, founder of a  
sanctuary for former  
death row prisoners, **USA**

Sunny was wrongfully tried, convicted and sentenced to death in Florida, USA in 1976. She spent five years under sentence of death in solitary confinement before her death sentence was overturned. She then spent a further 12 years among the general prison population to whom she began to teach yoga. With the help of lawyers who worked for many years without pay and friends who assisted them in the research, Sunny had her conviction overturned in 1992 and achieved her liberty.



**PETER PRINGLE**  
Former death row prisoner,  
founder of a sanctuary  
for former death row  
prisoners, **Ireland**

Peter was wrongfully prosecuted, tried and convicted of capital murder and robbery by the non-jury Special Criminal Court in Dublin, Ireland, in 1980. He was sentenced to death and to 15 years imprisonment. In 1981, his death sentence was commuted to 40 years penal servitude without remission. He studied law and prepared his case under the Irish Constitution. He opened his case in the High Court in Dublin in January 1992 representing himself. He won his freedom in 1995.

SUNNY and PETER each devoted themselves to healing and peace and reconciliation upon their respective releases. They met in 1998 and together have established The Sunny Center, a sanctuary especially dedicated for people who were wrongly convicted of crimes they did not commit and have spent time on death row.

## TESTIMONIES



**HIDEKO HAKAMADA**  
Sister of Iwao Hakamada,  
the world's longest  
serving death row inmate,  
**Japan**

To accomplish her deceased mother's wish that Iwao should be exonerated, Hideko Hakamada, 83 years old, has devotedly supported her younger brother. Iwao, age 80, was arrested at the age of 30. He was erroneously convicted and sentenced to death and spent 47 years and 7 months under detention. He is the world's longest serving death row inmate. On March 27, 2014, he was released following the decision to reopen the case, but the decision is pending and he remains a convicted prisoner.



**BYSON KAULA**  
Former death row prisoner,  
volunteers as a teacher  
and a chaplain in prison  
since his release, **Malawi**

Byson Kaula was arrested in 1992 for the death of one of his employees who was serious ill and after being held on remand for 7 years, he was convicted of murder and sentenced to the mandatory death penalty. In prison he developed prisoner education programs and quickly became known as "the professor" for his work teaching life skills to his fellow prisoners. After 23 years in prison he was released in early 2015 and resided at the Prison Fellowship Malawi, a residence that helps newly released prisoners reintegrate into society. Byson has since then left the residence but now volunteers as a teacher and a chaplain during the PFM's prison visits.



**SUZAN KIGULA**

Former death row  
prisoner, studied law  
while in prison,  
**Uganda**

Suzan was arrested in 2000 and sentenced to death in 2002. While in prison, she founded a school with the support of Uganda Prison Services and joined herself, completing her studies with excellency. African Prison Project chose her and sponsored her distance-learning education from the University of London. In partnership with the NGO FHRI, Suzan led the death penalty petition in Uganda's Constitutional courts which is famously known as Suzan Kigula & 417 Others. The petition found mandatory death sentences unconstitutional. Suzan came out of prison on January 2016. She is currently finalizing her Law degree.



**CELIA VELOSO**

Mother of Mary Jane  
Veloso, on death row in  
Indonesia, **Philippines**

Celia Veloso is the mother of Mary Jane Veloso who was arrested in Indonesia for drug trafficking and was sentenced to death in October 2010. Her family, together with the NGO Migrante International, launched a campaign to save Mary Jane, asserting that she is innocent and is actually a victim of human trafficking. In April 2015, Mary Jane had been transferred to a holding cell, prior to her imminent execution. A last-minute turnaround saved her from execution, but her life is still on the line and Celia Veloso is tirelessly working for Mary Jane's freedom.



**LUBOV KOVALEVA**

Mother of Vladislav Kovalev,  
executed in **Belarus**.  
Laureate of the Human  
Rights Defender Prize.

Lubov Kovaleva is an active member of the coalition "Human Rights Defenders Against the Death Penalty in Belarus". In 2012, she was awarded the Human Rights Defender Prize for her active support to her son Vladislav Kovalev and for her fight against the death penalty.

Found guilty of collaborating with terrorists after the explosion in Minsk subway in April 2011, Vladislav Kovalev was sentenced to death penalty in a hasty trial marred with irregularities in November 2011. The execution took place in March 2012 while his individual complaint filed by Lubov Kovaleva was still being considered by the UN Human Rights Committee.



**NDUME OLATUSHANI**

former death row  
prisoner, became  
an artist, **USA**

©Eric England

Ndume Olatushani is 56 years old. In 1983 he was charged with a shooting death during a holdup. He was wrongfully convicted and sentenced to death. After countless appeals, in 2004 Ndume was re-sentenced to life in prison, and moved off death row. He was released after entering the Alford plea: he gave up his exemption, which allowed him to be released immediately, but is still considered guilty despite his innocence. He was released in 2012 and took part to the Windows on death row project.



# PROGRAMME

TUESDAY 21 <sup>ST</sup> JUNE		
17:00-19:30	<b>OPENING CEREMONY</b>	
WEDNESDAY 22 <sup>ND</sup> JUNE		
9:00-11:00	<b>PLENARY</b> <b>Progress and set-backs in Asia: lessons to be learnt</b> <i>How can recent positive developments in Asia be used to overcome common challenges in retentionist nations?</i>	
11:00-11:30	COFFEE BREAK	
11:30-13:30	<b>ROUNDTABLE</b> <b>The death penalty and the problem of terrorism</b> <i>How to address the arguments for retaining the death penalty in cases of terrorism?</i>	<b>WORKSHOP</b> <b>Developing legal strategies to move towards abolition of the death penalty</b> <i>This workshop will provide participants with information on different successful legal strategies and case law so they can develop or refine their own.</i>
13:30-15:00	LUNCH BREAK	
15:00-17:00	<b>ROUNDTABLE</b> <b>Legal, social and medical perspectives on the problem of protecting individuals with mental disorders from the death penalty</b> <i>What are the human rights standards guaranteeing protection of individuals with mental disorders facing the death penalty? What are the practical challenges that prevent their application to ensure the exclusion of individuals with mental disorders from being sentenced to death?</i>	<b>WORKSHOP</b> <b>How to efficiently communicate with the media?</b> <i>Working with the media can be a daunting task. This workshop will enable exchange of experiences between journalists and abolitionists on the problems of communicating the case for abolition of the death penalty.</i>
17:00-17:30	COFFEE BREAK	
17:30-19:30	<b>ROUNDTABLE</b> <b>Migrants and minorities: Strategies to overcome challenges in capital cases</b> <i>Challenges and difficulties in representing migrants and minorities facing the death penalty. A look beyond diplomatic strategies.</i>	<b>WORKSHOP</b> <b>Documenting the use of the death penalty</b> <i>Exchange of tools and experiences on how to overcome challenges to gathering and sharing information as well as monitoring State practices.</i>



**MICHAEL O'DONNELL:**  
 FINAL SENTENCE 2003-16

Michael O'Donnell is associated with a generation of British sculptors, who, in the eighties established a new approach to the medium of sculpture. He is currently Professor and formerly Dean of the Academy of Fine Art in Oslo.

His work, FINAL SENTENCE 2003-16, is a memorial based on the final words of death row inmates in Texas, right before their execution. It will be screened during the Congress.

# CULTURAL

**PATRICK CHAPPATTE AND ANNE-FREDERIQUE WIDMANN:**  
 WINDOWS ON DEATH ROW, ART FROM INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE PRISON WALLS

Windows on Death Row, Art From Inside and Outside the Prison Walls, is a unique collaborative exhibition, produced by cartoonists and death row inmates. It was coordinated by the internationally known cartoonist Patrick Chappatte and the journalist Anne-Frederique Widmann.







# OF THE DEBATES

THURSDAY 23 <sup>RD</sup> JUNE			
9:00-11:00	<b>PLENARY</b> <b>The importance of NHRIs to the abolitionist cause</b> <i>How to work with the national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and rally them to the abolitionist cause?</i>		
11:00-11:30	COFFEE BREAK		
11:30-13:30	<b>ROUNDTABLE</b> <b>The draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Abolition of the death penalty in Africa</b>	<b>ROUNDTABLE</b> <b>USA: New allies joining the fight to end the death penalty</b> <i>Presenting new allies and how they are being integrated in the American abolitionist strategies.</i>	<b>WORKSHOP</b> <b>Advocating for the abolition with Parliamentarians and the Executive</b> <i>How to advocate at the national level for the abolition of the death penalty? Tools and best practices on how one could advocate with Parliamentarians and the Executive.</i>
13:30-15:00	LUNCH BREAK		
15:00-17:00	<b>ROUNDTABLE</b> <b>Facing the challenge of alternatives to the death penalty</b> <i>What are the alternatives to the death penalty? What measures, consistent with the protection of human rights, could the abolitionist movement propose to make alternatives more acceptable to States that retain the death penalty?</i>	<b>WORKSHOP OPEN TO LAWYERS ONLY</b> <b>Effective legal representation for persons facing the death penalty</b> <i>How to ensure an effective legal representation? This workshop is open to lawyers only to give them the opportunity and space to share experiences/build a network.</i>	<b>WORKSHOP</b> <b>Mobilising youth to the abolitionist cause</b> <i>How to mobilise the youth and raise their awareness on the necessity to abolish the death penalty? A methodology and education tools will be presented.</i>
17:00-17:40	WALK TO THE CITY HALL (15')		
18:00-19:30	CLOSING CEREMONY AT THE CITY HALL		
FROM 19:30	GLOBAL MARCH AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY (DEPARTURE FROM THE CITY HALL)		

# CULTURAL

## MANA NEYESTANI: CARTOONS AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

Mana Neyestani is an Iranian cartoonist. He was imprisoned in 2006 following the publication of one of his cartoons. Released on bail, he left Iran with his wife and now lives in Paris. Mana was a member of ICORN (International Cities of Refuge Network), and he works for several Iranian websites as Rooz Online, Mardomak and Radio Zamaneh.



OTHER CULTURAL EVENTS such as film screenings and exhibitions will also be proposed before the Congress.

On the evening of June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the event “**Living with the Death Penalty**” will give the opportunity to the witnesses to share the journey of their reintegration upon their release from death row.

On June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm, all the participants are invited to gather on the forecourt of the City Hall and join the **Global March Against the Death Penalty** which will go through Karl Johans Gate.



# ECPM (TOGETHER AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY)

Since 2000, we have been fighting against the death penalty worldwide by uniting and rallying abolitionist forces across the world. We advocate with international bodies and encourage universal abolition through education, information, and public awareness campaigns. We strengthen the capacities of abolitionist actors and act alongside them on a local scale.

2016



## ECPM IS GRANTED CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH ECOSOC

ECPM reaches a major milestone by obtaining consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), granting it access to UN institutions in Geneva (Human Rights Council), New York (United Nations Headquarters and Security Council), and Vienna (UNODC-United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime).

2015



## CAMPAIGN FOR SERGE ATLAOUI AND ALL DEATH ROW PRISONERS IN INDONESIA

When Indonesia resumes executions, ECPM rallies around to prevent the execution of Serge Atlaoui, a French citizen sentenced to death in Indonesia. Following weeks of campaigning, and the execution of 8 more people, Serge Atlaoui narrowly avoids death.

2012



## 1<sup>ST</sup> REGIONAL IN RABAT

ECPM organises the 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Congress in Rabat in order to lobby the highest echelons of power in a region of the world where the death penalty remains a major issue in society.

2010



## CAMPAIGN FOR HANK SKINNER

ECPM rallies around to prevent the execution of Hank Skinner. Having been sentenced to death in Texas, his case is reopened and new DNA samples are collected.

2007



## THE CASE OF THE BULGARIAN NURSES

ECPM rallies presidential candidates to save 5 Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian doctor sentenced to death in Libya for allegedly inoculating children with the AIDS virus.

2002



## FORMATION OF THE WORLD COALITION AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

On the initiative of ECPM, the 1<sup>st</sup> World Congress led to the formation of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty in Rome on 13 May 2002. Today, it boasts over 150 members.

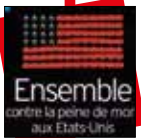
2001



## 1<sup>ST</sup> WORLD CONGRESS IN STRASBOURG

ECPM positions itself as the uniting organisation for all abolitionist forces from across the world and organises the 1<sup>st</sup> World Congress Against the Death Penalty in Strasbourg. The event is then held every three years.

2000



## CREATION OF THE ORGANISATION

Michel Taube and Benjamin Menasce publish a book, *An Open Letter to Americans for the Abolition of the Death Penalty*, followed by a campaign, "Together Against the death Penalty in the USA" which gathers 500,000 signatures in France. This show of strength leads to the creation of the ECPM organisation.



# OUR PARTNERS

## CONGRESS SPONSOR STATES



Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

## THE WORLD COALITION AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY



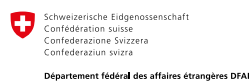
An alliance of more than 150 NGOs, bar associations, local authorities and unions, was created in Rome on 13 May 2002. It was founded as a result of the commitment made by the signatories of the Final Declaration of the First World Congress Against the Death Penalty organised by the French NGO Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) in Strasbourg in June 2001.

The aim of the World Coalition is to strengthen the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty by lobbying international organisations and States, by organising international campaigns, including the World Day Against the Death Penalty and by supporting national and regional abolitionist forces.

## WITH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF



Avec le soutien de l'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie



Avec le soutien financier de



## IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



# THE MEDIA AT THE CONGRESS

## ACCREDITATIONS

Journalists who wish to follow and do the media coverage of the 6<sup>th</sup> World Congress are invited to send their requests for accreditations and interviews to:

**Jessica Corredor**

Press Officer

Tel: + 33 1 80 87 70 24 Mobile: + 33 6 67 51 30 31

E-mail: [jcorredor@abolition.fr](mailto:jcorredor@abolition.fr)

## PRESS ROOM AND TECHNICAL MEANS FOR THE MEDIA

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

Several "interview" areas are made available to media representatives, as well as a soundproof room for radio recordings.

Journalists who wish to do live broadcasting (for which technical means are available) are a priority and must register beforehand with the Congress' press service.

## PRESS EVENTS

### "Speaking from the heart: The death penalty unmasked"

Press conference, Wednesday, June 15 at 11am at the Litteraturhuset - Wergelandsveien 29, 0167 Oslo.

Speakers:

Mr Raphaël Chenuil-Hazan (France), Director of ECPM

Mrs Sunny Jacobs (USA), former sentenced to death

Mr Peter Pringle (Ireland), former sentenced to death

Mrs Lubov Kovaleva (Belarus), mother of Vladislav Kovalev, executed in Belarus

### "6<sup>th</sup> World Congress Against the Death Penalty: Uniting the voices"

Press conference in the presence of important political representatives and the witnesses invited to the Congress, Tuesday, June 21 at 3:30pm at the Oslo Opera House

## CONTACTS

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Twitter : @AssociationEcpm

#AbolitionNow

Congress' website : [congress.abolition.fr](http://congress.abolition.fr)

ECPM's website: [www.abolition.fr](http://www.abolition.fr)

*Ensemble  
contre  
la peine  
de mort*