

ACTIVITY REPORT 2008



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INTRODUCTION

Thanks to your support, ECPM was able in 2008 to pursue its fight in all direction and on all continents for a justice with no execution. Because human rights are indivisible and because the first of all human rights should be the right to live!

This activity report tells the story of a fascinating and rich year. 2008 was a strategic year for our fight: with the launch of the Olympic Games, ECPM worked on raising awareness on the death penalty issues in China which carries out more than 80% of world executions. ECPM also published reports, lobbied actions, held seminars to advance the cause of abolition in France and in Africa. 2008 is also the year when ECPM was reelected Executive Secretary of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty for a two year mandate. The Coalition has grown and at the end of the year it gathered 83 members. 2008 is also for ECPM a year of strong internal reorganization to professionalize always further the NGO.

2009 opens on a great perspective: the organization of the 4th World Congress against the death penalty in Geneva. Naturally you are all invited!

Cécile Thimoreau
Director of ECPM

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ECPM

INTERNAL ORGANISATION

Any NGO needs to constantly review the way it functions and the way it is run. In 2008, in addition to its campaigning, ECPM also strengthened its internal organisational set-up. ECPM:

- undertook an in-depth review of its campaigning strategy obtained funding from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs which allowed it to recruit a consultant to advise its Administrative Council on the way ahead for 2009
- restructured and improved its tax and accounting systems, as well as improving the monitoring of staff pay and conditions
- developed its HR management systems (allocation of responsibilities, professional training, annual assessments and self-assessments, adoption of internal guidelines etc.)
- created new tools for volunteers to use in their actions (educational kits outlining the basic issues as well skills-building tools)
- found new, more spacious premises at the same price – we moved into them in March 2009
- initiated a review of its 2006 statutes



ACTIVITY 1

BRINGING TOGETHER
ABOLITIONIST
CAMPAIGNERS FROM
AROUND THE
WORLD IN ORDER
TO INCREASE
EFFECTIVENESSGENEVA 2010,
FOR A 4TH WORLD CONGRESS

Every three years, ECPM, in conjunction with the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, organises the World Congress Against the Death Penalty. This is the largest gathering of abolitionist campaigners from around the world. At the invitation of the Swiss government, the next Congress will be held in Geneva at the end of February 2010. The Congress is an opportunity to bring together abolitionist campaigners, to strengthen the international dimension of the campaign against the death penalty and to develop joint international, national and regional strategies for achieving universal abolition.

WRITING UP OF THE MINUTES OF THE 3RD WORLD
CONGRESS AND A PRESENTATION CEREMONY

In April 2008, a year after the 3rd World Congress Against the Death Penalty was held in Paris, ECPM published the official minutes. They record the debates and round tables and enable conclusions to be drawn, broad directions to be identified and international abolitionist strategies to be endorsed. A ceremony at which the Minutes were officially presented was held at the Swiss Embassy in Paris. Ashraf El-Hagug, a Bulgarian doctor of Palestinian origin, who had been sentenced to death in Libya and whose life was saved thanks to international action on behalf of the Bulgarian nurses, delivered a poignant speech at the ceremony. Pascal Clément also honoured us with his presence and set out the reasons why he had been converted to the cause of abolition. It is worth recalling that this former Minister of Justice under Jacques Chirac was responsible in 2007 for writing the abolition of the death penalty into the French Constitution, having previously been a fervent defender of capital punishment.

Doctor Ashraf El Hagug and Rudolf Knoblauch,
Swiss ambassador for Human Rights



4^e Congrès mondial
contre la peine de mort
Genève 2010
22-28 Janvier 2010

Centre International des conférences de Genève

Ensemble
contre
la peine
de mort

COALITION
MONDIALE
— CONTRE LA PEINE DE MORT —

BRINGING TOGETHER ABOLITIONIST CAMPAIGNERS...

PUTTING IN PLACE THE INTERNAL ORGANISATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NEXT CONGRESS

A coordinator was recruited in mid-October 2008 to oversee the conception and the implementation of the 4th World Congress. She has developed an internal organisational plan and identified the various operational areas: coordination, human resources, political support, fundraising and partnerships, specific content planning, logistics, media and publications. The responsibilities, timetables and human resources needs of each of these areas have also been analysed.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROJECT FOR THE 4TH WORLD CONGRESS

There was a consultation process on the conception of the project. The recommendations of the 3rd Congress were collated and analysed and external consultants, the organisers of previous Congresses, members of the administrative council and the ECPM team were interviewed and brought on board to assist in defining the project. In parallel, members of the Steering Committee of the World Coalition, a Congress partner concentrating on the specific content planning, held a meeting in Paris in January 2009. A working group comprised of Coalition members and chaired by ECPM was set up to develop a detailed programme. Members of the Coalition were widely consulted to ensure that the Congress meets the needs of abolitionist campaigners as effectively as possible.

This internal ECPM process, in conjunction with the World Coalition, enabled us to identify the major focuses of the project and to incorporate innovative ideas for its implementation, as well as to determine the overall objectives of the Congress, the target public and the prominent figures whose support needs to be enlisted. It also enabled us to define the structure of the programme and the principal themes of the Congress.

RAISING FUNDS AND ENLISTING PARTNERS

A Congress presentation dossier intended for partners and funders has been put together. It consists of a document detailing the success of previous Congresses and setting out the project for the 4th Congress, a timeline of activities and a projected budget. Further elements will be added to it in the course of 2009, including a detailed programme at the end of June.

Two working trips to Switzerland have already been undertaken in order to make contact with all the existing and potential partners who will play a role in organising the 4th World Congress and in fundraising. These trips have enabled us to formalise our partnership with the Swiss government, which is very supportive of the Congress, to identify the Congress venue and to bring partners on board. ECPM is seeking political, financial, logistical and voluntary support, as well as assistance with media work, the specific content planning and the cultural programme.

Public attending the 3rd World Congress in Paris (2007)



BRINGING TOGETHER ABOLITIONIST CAMPAIGNERS...

GUIDING AND DEVELOPING THE WORLD COALITION

With 30 new members in 2008, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty now has 83 members who are actively campaigning for the universal abolition of the death penalty. In 2008 the World Coalition, which is represented in 31 countries across five continents, confirmed its pivotal role in the worldwide abolitionist community. It campaigns against the death penalty wherever it is still in use. Now with an independent status as a not-for-profit organisation under French law, in 2008 it coordinated its members' activities and defined four major domains of action. At the same time, it continued to put pressure on retentionist states and to develop information and awareness-raising tools for its members, for the press and for everyone interested in the death penalty issue.

ACTION ON CHINA

Against the backdrop of the forthcoming 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, in February 2008 the World Coalition launched an awareness-raising campaign on the death penalty in China in order to engage with the Chinese authorities and to encourage them to reform the system of capital punishment in their country. This included the publication of an open letter addressed to the National People's Congress of China on the opening of its session in February 2008.

Addressed to President Hu Jintao, an international petition urged transparency of information concerning the death penalty and the introduction of a moratorium on executions, in keeping with the worldwide trend towards abolition. It gathered over 256,000 signatures from around the world and was officially presented to the Chinese authorities in Hong Kong on 16 June 2008, following a press conference attended by death penalty experts. This initiative attracted the interest of the major news agencies (including AFP, Reuters, AP and the BBC), whose reports were

picked up by the regional media and subsequently broadcast in four different languages. To support its campaign, the World Coalition distributed posters and information packs in English and French to its members in order to assist them in campaigning under the banner 'Some records must be broken'.

2008 WORLD DAY DEVOTED TO ASIA

As it has done every year since 2003, the World Coalition organised the World Day Against the Death Penalty on 10 October 2008. There were 289 initiatives undertaken in 50 countries with the aim of alerting the international public to the extent of the executions being carried out in Asia. Asian countries were heavily involved.

Although Asia accounts for only 60% of the world's population, it is estimated that between 85% and 95% of executions in the world take place there. The World Coalition decided to focus its efforts on 6 retentionist countries: India, South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Pakistan and Vietnam. Six appeals were launched for a petition that gathered 25,000 signatures and was translated into over seven languages. China was not targeted because it had already been the focus of a specific campaign prior to the Olympic Games in Beijing.

For the World Day in Asia, a representative of the World Coalition Steering Committee travelled to South Korea and attended a session of the National Assembly which was considering a draft law on the abolition of the death penalty. He had the opportunity to meet abolitionist campaigners, including representatives from institutions, professional bodies, religious faiths and NGOs. He then met with Chong-Hoon Kim, the Human Rights Officer at the Ministry of Justice, to discuss the likelihood of the draft law being successfully adopted.

This undertaking followed on from a similar initiative in Taiwan, another country targeted during the World Day,

Posters and leaflets sent all over the world for the 2008 World Day Campaign devoted to Asia



BRINGING TOGETHER ABOLITIONIST CAMPAIGNERS...

where a World Coalition delegation was received by the President of the Republic and the Taiwanese Minister of Justice. They both expressed their support for abolition, while stressing that there was still too much opposition to legal abolition in their country.

Following the campaign, in November 2008 Vietnam reformed its penal code with the aim of reducing the number of crimes which carry the death penalty, particularly non-violent crimes.

The World Coalition is constantly developing information and awareness-raising tools for use by all its members, thereby strengthening their lobbying capacity. It has also made good use of its website to provide useful and accurate information on the death penalty (www.worldcoalition.org) and it also sends a monthly newsletter in English and French to over 800 contacts around the world.

In 2008, the World Coalition published its report on the World Day 2007 and sent it to 800 contacts around the world.

MORATORIUM CAMPAIGN

The World Coalition has joined the call for a universal moratorium on executions which was launched in 1998 by its members (Sant' Egidio and Amnesty International).

The World Coalition encouraged its members to campaign in their countries for the adoption of the resolution by the United Nations General Assembly. On 18 December 2008, the UN General Assembly adopted by a very large majority Resolution 63/168, 'reaffirming its resolution 62/149 of 18 December 2007 on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty'.

PROTOCOL 2 CAMPAIGN

In 2008 the World Coalition launched a campaign for the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

The Second Protocol is the only universal instrument which prohibits executions and provides for the complete abolition of the death penalty. The World Coalition therefore decided to orchestrate a campaign whose ultimate aim is the ratification of the Second Protocol by all the state parties to the ICCPR, whether they are abolitionist for all crimes or only for crimes of common law. In April 2008, the Coalition organised a workshop whose partici-

pants included the person who drafted this protocol, Marc Bossuyt, and other international experts. In 2008, five countries ratified the protocol. In 2009, the World Coalition will focus its efforts on ten other countries to encourage them to do likewise.

STUDIES

The World Coalition published two studies in 2008:

- a report entitled 'The Death Penalty in the Great Lakes Region of Africa: protagonists, arguments and strategies', written by Franck Gorchs-Chacou and Caroline Sculier and focusing in particular on four countries in the region – Burundi, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda.
- a study entitled 'Fighting against the Death Penalty in the Arab World: protagonists, arguments and prospects'. Written by Mona Chamass, this study describes the situation regarding the death penalty in the 22 countries of the League of Arab States.

These studies have been widely distributed to Coalition members and to politicians in the regions studied.

POLITICAL LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

In 2008, the World Coalition continued to campaign for government action. Its support for the working group of the African Commission Human and Peoples' Rights contributed to the adoption of Resolution 136 (XXXVIII) 08, which urged state parties to observe the moratorium on the death penalty.

In particular, the Coalition monitored the situation in Algeria, Lebanon, Liberia, Burundi, Jamaica, South Korea and Taiwan. It also lobbied the authorities in Liberia, Burundi, South Korea, Taiwan, Ghana and Thailand.

On 30 June 2008, the World Coalition General Assembly was held in Nantes, in the margins of the third World Forum on Human Rights. With over 150 participants, the General Assembly is an important gathering of the worldwide abolitionist community. It was the occasion to renew the Steering Committee, which is the executive organ of the World Coalition and comprises 20 elected members. Once again, ECPM will assume the role of executive secretariat, with Cécile Thimoreau (Director of ECPM) as the World Coalition executive secretary and Speedy Rice as its treasurer.

ACTIVITY 2

PUBLISHING TO INFORM, CAPITALISING ON OUR EXPERTISE AND TAKING ACTION

ECPM's editorial strategy is centred around three main channels of communication:

- the website www.abolition.fr,
- the Abolition Email, a monthly electronic newsletter,
- the Abolition Journal, a printed newspaper that comes out three times a year.

WWW. ABOLITION.FR

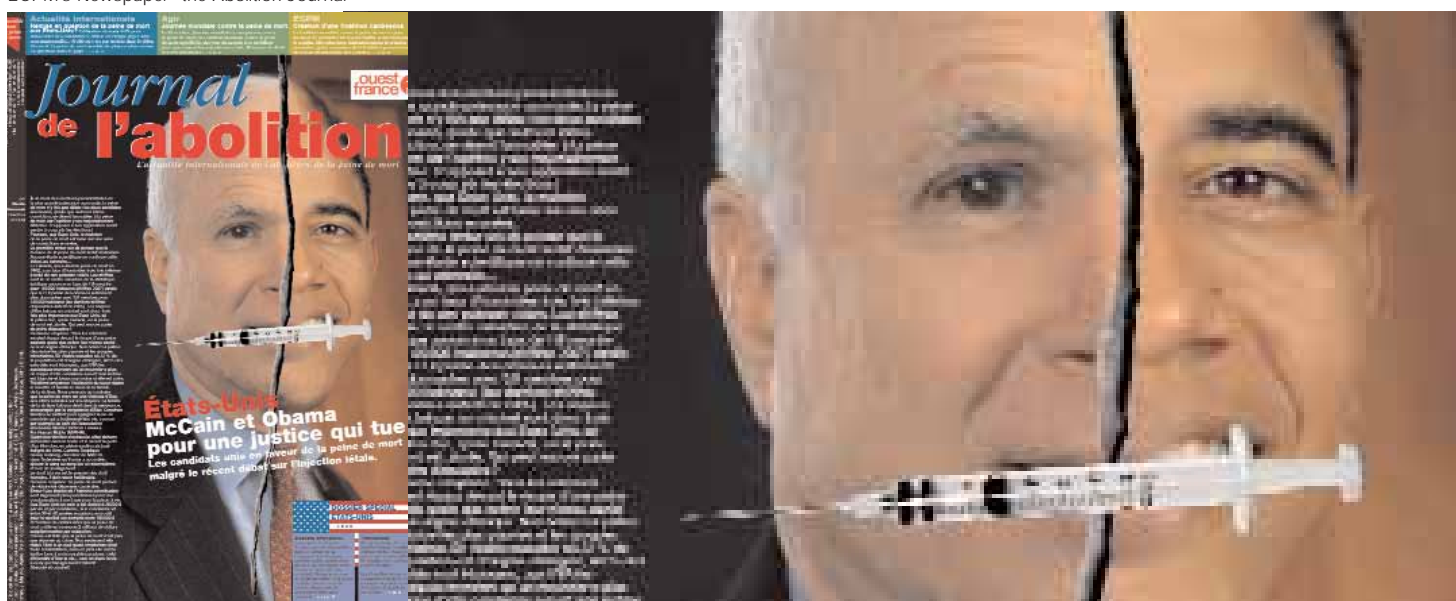
The website www.abolition.fr is aimed at the French-speaking public. It provides a daily monitoring service on the death penalty and its abolition (news flashes, RSS feeds etc.) and a regularly updated database on the death penalty (monthly thematic dossiers, country profiles, the Death penalty overview section etc.). In April 2008, for example, the dossier of the month outlined all of the campaigning activities undertaken by ECPM. It included photo reports of the demonstrations held when the Olympic Flame passed through Paris, of a campaign organised to coincide with the Paris Marathon and the presentation of the minutes of the 3rd World Congress Against the Death Penalty to the Swiss Embassy in Paris. In June, our dossier of the month was devoted to the 2008 Beijing Olympics campaign, whose slogan was: 'Some records must be broken'. This was organised by the China 2008 Olympics Collective, of which ECPM is a founding member, just before the start of the summer Olympic Games in Beijing. In October and November, the email gave feedback on seminars which had been held in Morocco and the Democratic Republic of Congo respectively.

The ECPM website is an effective way of relaying information and supporting campaigning activities. A space devoted to raising awareness of the issues involved in abolishing the death penalty also provides a set of tools which enables internet users to communicate the abolition message more effectively (arguments against the death penalty, an online exhibition entitled On the road to universal abolition, volunteer kits etc.).

FIGURES

This year, 194, 976 people visited the site, meaning over 16,000 visitors every month. On average, visitors viewed 4 or 5 pages on the site per visit. Over the whole year, 888,180 pages of the [abolition.fr](http://www.abolition.fr) site were viewed.

ECPM's Newspaper "the Abolition Journal"



THE ABOLITION EMAIL

The Abolition Email is a monthly online newsletter sent to subscribers (subscription is free). Every month the email highlights the main information which has been posted on the abolition.fr website.

Two sections (Front Page and Dossier of the Month) encourage subscribers to the Abolition Email to find out more about the latest top news stories and to deepen their understanding of certain issues.

The increasing regularity of executions in Japan at the beginning of 2008 was, for instance, the focus of a dossier on our website which featured in the newsletter, as did the situation in China at the time of the Beijing Olympics, the death penalty in the context of the US elections and the issue of foreigners being sentenced to death in Saudi Arabia. One final RSS-feed tool on the site is the 'Death Penalty News' section, which provides a monthly review of the news flashes which have appeared on www.abolition.fr. News flashes are published on an almost daily basis on our site, and this section allows ECPM to present the information in structured way for internet users and to highlight the most important news of the previous month.

The 'Death Row' space (cf the initiative 'Act on behalf of those on death row') is also featured in our newsletter every month, allowing us to alert subscribers to individual death penalty cases.

FIGURES

Every month, the Abolition Email is sent to 80,000 subscribers. Over 30,000 subscribers respond by clicking on the newsletter links and visiting the website www.abolition.fr

They were 60 new subscriptions in January 2009.

THE ABOLITION JOURNAL

The Abolition Journal, with its eight to sixteen pages, carries the latest news on abolition and encourages its readers to take action. Distributed for free by ECPM and sent to the press and to decision-makers, it has a print-run of 20,000 copies. It is printed for free by our partner Ouest France. ECPM published two Abolition Journals in 2008. One was a special edition on China in the context of the Olympic Games in Beijing. The other focused on the United States as the US presidential elections approached.

The Abolition Journal is designed and produced by a team of professional journalists and campaigners. The journalists write the articles and assist campaigners and guest abolitionist experts in producing opinion pieces for the journal. The most recent editions are distributed throughout the year in the course of ECPM's various campaigning activities.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

To accompany each major campaigning initiative, ECPM also produces a public document aimed at a wide audience. This year, 500 copies of the Minutes of the 3rd World Congress Against the Death Penalty were printed and sent to all the participants, speakers, partners and funders of the Paris Congress. The three death row investigations conducted in the Great Lakes region in 2005, 2006 and 2007 were published in a single volume on the occasion of the seminar held in the DRC. The minutes of the seminar in Morocco have been written up and will be printed in French and Arabic in the first half of 2009 (see Activity 4 for details).

the ECPM website home page.



ACTIVITY 3

TEACHING AND
AWARENESS-RAISING
ABOUT ABOLITION
IN FRANCETEACHING ABOUT ABOLITION:
'ON THE ROAD TO UNIVERSAL
ABOLITION' EXHIBITION

Having officially been accorded by the Ministry of Education the status of an educational association with a complementary role in public education, and having also been officially recognised by the Ministry for Youth and Sports, ECPM is more than ever conscious of the importance of teaching about abolition, even in abolitionist countries - the battle for hearts and minds has not yet been won! ECPM held its exhibition 'On the Road to Universal Abolition' at half a dozen forums and school establishments in 2008. The 13 panels of the exhibition, which offer an overview of the abolition of the death penalty, have been already booked for events in 2009.

AWARENESS-RAISING ACROSS
THE BOARD: ECPM REACHES OUT
TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Ever since its creation, ECPM has been committed to engaging with the widest possible public in order to promote abolition and to urge citizens to act on behalf of those who have been sentenced to death. ECPM's objective is to participate in as many public events as possible. In 2008 ECPM was present at:

- The Human Rights Book Fair in Paris
- The Peace Initiatives Salon
- The World Human Rights Forum in Nantes
- Gay Pride
- The Fête de l'Humanité

GAY PRIDE: PAS D'HOMO À L'ÉCHAFAUD

For the fourth year in a row, ECPM and its float, complete with nine life-size gallows, took part in the procession in order to denounce countries in which homosexuality is still a capital offence. Amid the hundreds of thousands of people who had gathered in Paris, ECPM handed out its petition 'Pas d'homo à l'échafaud' [literally: 'no gays on the gallows'] and received several hundred signatures.

FÊTE DE L'HUMANITÉ: AN ABOLITION STAND

For the fourth year in a row, ECPM ran a stand at the Fête de l'Humanité. It put on display its exhibition and its publications, distributed thousands of stickers and information leaflets and gathered thousands of signatures for its latest petition.

ECPM's mobilization tools for the Gay Pride.



ACTIVITY 4

STRENGTHENING
THE CAMPAIGNING
CAPACITY OF
ACTIVISTS AND/OR
ACTING WITH THEMCONCLUSIONS OF RESEARCH
MISSIONS TO THE AFRICAN
GREAT LAKES REGION

In September 2008, ECPM, in partnership with the NGO Culture pour la paix et la Justice and in association with various investigation partners, organised a regional conference in the Democratic Republic of Congo on 'The Abolition of the Death Penalty in the African Great Lakes Region'.

The objective of the one-day conference was to bring together activists from Burundi, Rwanda and DRC in order to adopt a joint strategy on the abolition of the death penalty and to set up a regional network of abolitionist campaigners. To mark the occasion, a document was published which set out the findings of the three death row research missions carried out in the Democratic Republic of Congo (an investigation which won the French Human Rights Prize), in Rwanda and in Burundi.

120 participants, including lawyers, magistrates, academics, journalists and students, took part in the debates. The day after the conference, a joint ECPM and CPJ delegation met Vital Kamhere, the president of the DRC National Assembly, in order to present him with the findings of the investigations carried out on death row in the DRC. Mr Kamhere declared that he was in favour of abolition and affirmed that Joseph Kabila, the DRC President, was in favour too. He moreover promised to distribute a letter from the regional coalition, which set out the critical arguments for abolishing the death penalty, to all the members of the Congolese parliament.

On 18 November 2008, the ECPM / CPJ delegation was received by Killy Kilungwa, the director of Kinshasa's central prison (the CPRK). The director stated that he had taken into account the recommendations set out in our death row report and had improved the conditions of detention of those sentenced to death. The delegation was able to confirm this during its visit by talking to prisoners on death row. The following points, in particular, are worth noting:

- Prisoners sentenced to death may now leave their cells between the hours of 8am and 6pm and circulate freely within the prison. They have access to the library, which contains copies of reports investigating judicial issues.
- There are no longer 'death row' cell-blocks - the cells of prisoners sentenced to death are now interspersed among the cells of other prisoners.
- A certain number of death sentences have been commuted to sentences of life imprisonment.

While the conditions of detention of inmates sentenced to death are far from ideal, these encouraging improvements bear witness to the effectiveness of the work of abolitionist campaigners on the ground.

M^e Lievin NGongi ahead of the Great Lakes regional Coalition against the death penalty.



STRENGTHENING THE CAMPAIGNING CAPACITY OF ACTIVISTS AND/OR ACTING WITH THEM

AWARENESS-RAISING SEMINAR IN MOROCCO

On 11-12 October 2008, Ensemble Contre la Peine de Mort (ECPM) and the Conseil Consultatif des Droits de l'Homme (CCDH) organised a discussion seminar on the death penalty in Rabat. Parliamentarians, magistrates, lawyers, academics, Muslim legal scholars and representatives from human rights groups gathered at the Tour Hassan Hotel in order to set out the conditions for an objective debate on the issue of the death penalty. Three plenary sessions, chaired by 12 international and national experts (including ECPM experts) focused on the following major themes:

- The death penalty and human rights
- The death penalty and Islamic doctrine
- The death penalty and national legislation
- The death penalty from a crime prevention perspective
- The death penalty from an international perspective

Organising a seminar on the death penalty in partnership with the Conseil Consultatif des droits de l'Homme (CCDH) was a major first and a symbolically important step in Morocco. The alliance between a high-profile French NGO and a prestigious Moroccan institution (the CCDH president is appointed by the king) demonstrated that civil society and politicians can work together to bring the debate onto the public stage and thereby advance the cause of abolition.

The two days of debates were intense, passionate and respectful. While a minority advocated the retention of the death penalty, nobody questioned the current moratorium on executions, which in itself represents a significant step forward. In all, almost 140 people attended the debates and the number of people who chose to speak was quite simply remarkable.

On the Sunday, the seminar was due to come to a close at 1.30pm, but the enthusiastic engagement of the participants led to the seminar being extended until the end of the afternoon. Clearly, this is a burning issue in Morocco. ECPM is delighted about this and is committed to maintaining its partnership with CCDH, which was initiated by the much-missed Driss Benzekri. In February 2007, at the 3rd World Congress Against the Death Penalty organised by the ECPM in Paris, the late CCDH president expressed his faith in abolition and stated that the Royal Palace wished to move in this direction.

For some years, Morocco's Justice and Reconciliation Commission (the IER) has been leaving behind the 'years of lead' and officially initiating debate on human rights issues. While the IER has included abolition of the death penalty in its recommendations and the CCDH is favourable to it, the issue remains sensitive.

Each participant had the possibility to take the floor during the seminar in Rabat



ACTIVITY 5

ACTING ON BEHALF OF THOSE ON DEATH ROW

THE DEATH ROW SPACE ON ABOLITION.FR: A TOOL FOR HELPING THOSE SENTENCED TO DEATH

Because a person on death row who is forgotten suffers even more keenly, since 2004 ECPM has been developing a 'Death Row' space on its website which aims to gather information on as many death penalty cases as possible, with individual profiles and suggestions for action which are accessible to everyone. In the United States, of the 3,000 individuals sentenced to death, only a few hundred are lucky enough to have a correspondent and links with the outside world. In the rest of the world, the situation is even worse - in African countries, it is difficult to establish the identities of those condemned to death. In Japan, details of those sentenced to death are kept secret. The Death Row space was greatly expanded in 2008 and featured 400 death penalty cases, compared to 250 in 2007. The number of countries featured also increased, from 19 in 2007 to 33 in 2008 (included the United States, China, Morocco, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Gambia, India, Indonesia, Singapore, Vietnam, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Uganda, Pakistan, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Zambia, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Belarus, North Korea, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Iraq, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon and the Palestinian Territories). It is difficult to evaluate exactly how many correspondents are in touch with inmates on death row, because monitoring this would be too expensive. However, in 2008 ECPM did carry out a survey of the needs of people on death row in the United States. One of their main wishes was to find people to correspond with who would help them to overcome their sense of isolation and offer them support and comfort. Death row inmates in the United States now generally write to us directly to convey their needs and they pass on our address to their fellow inmates.

An Inmate in Kinshasa's prison and the home page of the « death row » space on ECPM's website.



Contacts have also been established with death row support groups in countries where direct contact with those on death row is very difficult, including Japan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iran and Taiwan.

Several times a month, calls for action on individual death penalty cases are highlighted when execution appears to be imminent or when individuals are in specific need of support. Examples include Mumia Abu Jamal, who is awaiting a decision from the US Supreme Court, Troy Davis, whose sentence may be commuted by the Governor of the State of Georgia, Sonny Perdue, and Larry Swearingen, who has always protested his innocence and whose execution was postponed at the last minute. The 'Death Row' space also contains news of solidarity campaigns launched by other organisations on behalf of people sentenced to death around the world, from Saudi Arabia, China and Iran to Japan.

In December 2008, a support group on the Death Row space set up an account on Facebook and invited its members to correspond with an inmate on death row and to share with others the campaigning initiatives featured on the ECPM website. This tool should lead to the Death Row space becoming more widely known and attract new support.

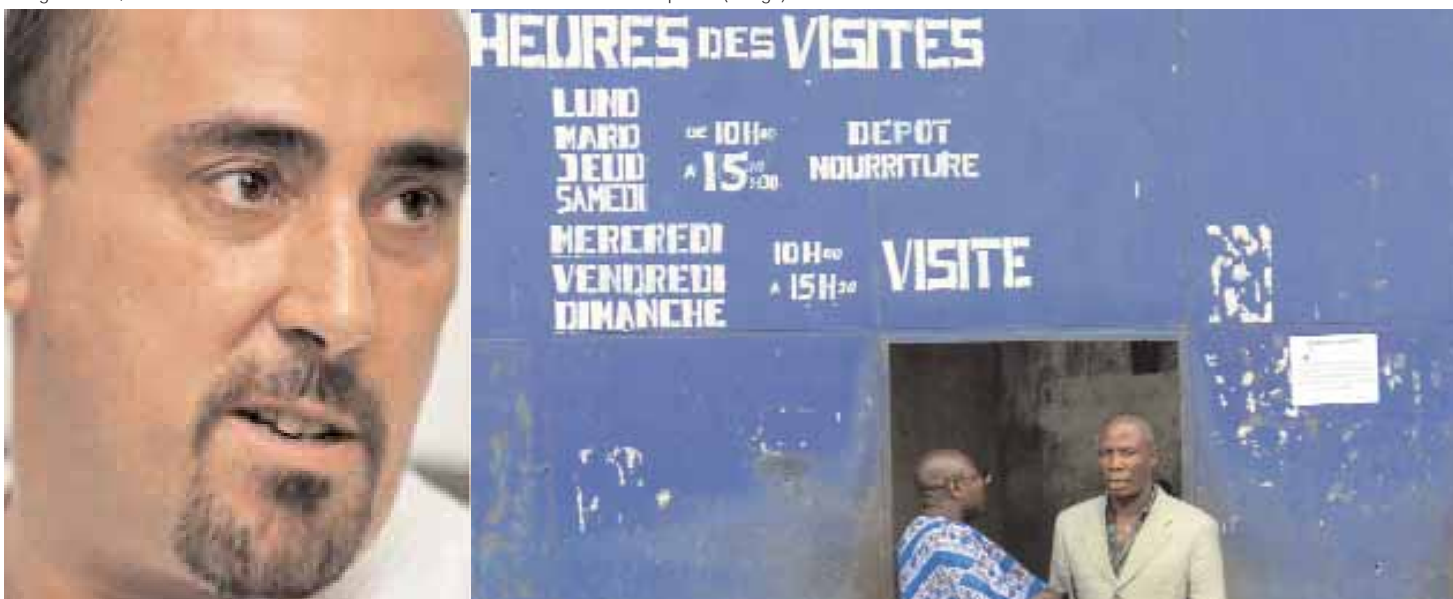
In 2009, we included in our mailshot for the subscription renewals of ECPM members a greetings card bearing the address of an individual on death row. Members were asked to send the person their greetings. The response of ECPM members was very positive and many greetings cards were sent, mainly to the USA.

RESPONDING URGENTLY TO THE PASSING OF A DEATH SENTENCE

ECPM is committed to supporting individuals sentenced to death who get in touch with us and whose case we may be in a position to take effective action on by mobilising international support, providing legal assistance, offering support and enlisting diplomatic assistance.

Since 2008, Richard Sédillot, a lawyer and administrator for ECPM, has been working on a voluntary basis to defend Serge Atlaoui, the only French national currently under sentence of death in the world. Incarcerated in Indonesia for having carried out maintenance on machines which he had no idea were being used to manufacture drugs, he was found guilty of involvement in drug trafficking and is now awaiting execution.

Serge Atlaoui, condemned to death in Indonesia/ The entrance of the Kinshasa's prison (Congo).



ACTIVITY 6

LOBBYING ACTIONS TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF ABOLITION

POLITICAL AWARENESS-RAISING WITHIN THE OIF

The Minister of Justice of the 68 member states and observers of the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) met in Paris on 13-14 February 2008 at the invitation of Abdou Diouf, the Secretary General of the OIF and Rachidi Dati, the French Minister of Justice. The aim of the conference was to develop cooperation between Francophone states and governments in the fields of justice and law.

ECPM saw an opportunity to ensure that the death penalty was not absent from the debates. For while the OIF has never taken an official stance against the death penalty, none of its 68 member states have recourse to the death penalty, except for Vietnam. Following an initial expression of support from the OIF at the Paris Congress, ECPM wrote to the Secretary General and to all the Ministers of Justice of OIF member countries in order to set out the case for abolition, prior to their attendance at the conference in Paris.

AWARENESS-RAISING CAMPAIGN ON THE DEATH PENALTY IN CHINA AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF THE BEIJING OLYMPICS

At a time when the question of Tibet and of freedom of expression in China was monopolising the attention of the general public and the athletes, ECPM wanted to raise the profile of issues relating to the death penalty, to executions and to organ trafficking in China. For a whole year, ECPM participated in initiatives by human rights NGOs, the Coalition Against the Death Penalty, the 2008 China Olympics Collective, the Théâtre du Soleil and in other major national events. ECPM also launched its own campaigns to highlight in the death penalty issue in particular.

JOINT ACTIONS IN ADVANCE OF THE BEIJING OLYMPICS

ECPM was actively engaged in the China 2008 Olympics Collective, in which a dozen or so French NGOs were involved, including Amnesty, Acat, FIDH, Solidarité Chine and RSE. The Collective drew up and addressed to the Chinese authorities a list of 'Eight Recommendations for Beijing', which represented a first step towards respect for human rights in China.

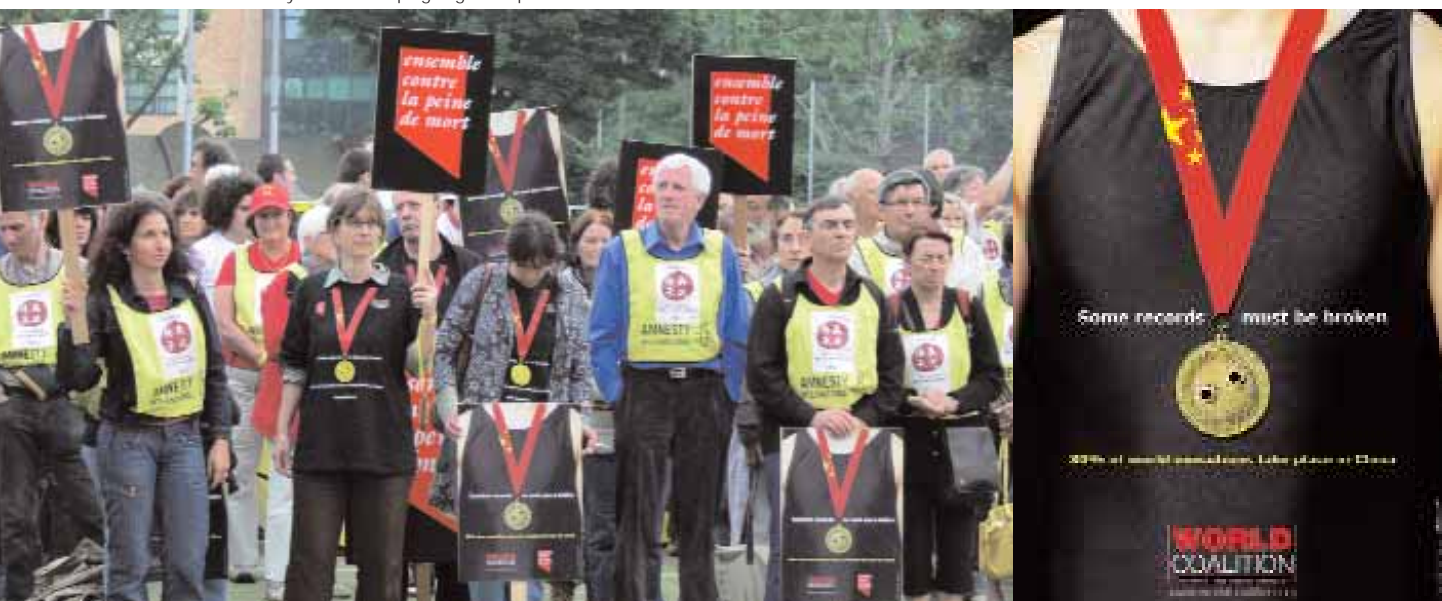
As well as campaigning for the acceptance of the Collective's recommendations, ECPM was also active at the major events of 2008, including:

- the event organised by Amnesty International France at the Charlety stadium on 31 May
- the World Coalition press conference held in Hong Kong on 16 June

LOBBYING AIMED AT ATHLETES AND CHINESE LAWYERS

Before the world's athletes left China, ECPM sought to raise awareness of the death penalty among the 208 national

ECPM and Amnesty France campaigning to stop executions in China.



"In spite of crime,
genocide and deportation,
humanity is moving
forward. We must not
allow Death in the guise
of Justice to be our law
and govern the land.
The struggle against the
death penalty will only
end when abolition is
universal. That is the
combat waged by
Ensemble contre
la peine de mort."

Robert Badinter



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