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2013 ACTIVITY REPORT

Ensemble contre la peine de mort

Summary of the text



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A Word from the general manager

Despite an increase in executions of nearly 15% between 2012 and 2013, the abolitionist movement continues to gain ground. In 2013, 140 countries were abolitionist (35 *de facto* and 105 in law) and 58 were retentionist. The Madrid World Congress was a good opportunity to consider the current situation and draw up future abolitionist strategies. Analysing the figures from one year in isolation is not enough; we can only carry out a relevant analysis of the actual situation in each region of the world if we identify trends.

There has been some progress in Africa which is very encouraging for the future. Burkina Faso, which has not executed anyone since 1988 and supported the UN resolution on a moratorium in 2012, is heading towards abolition in law. After ten years without any execution, Zimbabwe should become *de facto*, abolitionist in 2014.

The Arab world, where ECPM is particularly active in spreading the abolitionist message, is far from uniform when it comes to practising the death penalty. Although we strongly deplore the massive sentences in Egypt, Lebanon should join the *de facto* abolitionists in 2014 and debate on capital punishment is now underway within the Moroccan Parliament. This is also the case in Asia where Thailand has reviewed its Penal Code, setting out a national consultation on a possible abolition.

Finally, although moratoriums have been passed in three US States (North Carolina, California and Kentucky) following the shortage of lethal substances, opportunities for the abolition in the United States should not be neglected. In 2013 Maryland became the 18th abolitionist State.

ECPM is working ceaselessly for global consideration of the reality of capital punishment and its repercussions on all the people involved: those sentenced to death and imprisoned in unacceptable conditions, those cleared who find it so hard to rebuild their lives, and the ostracised families.

We remain true to our values of humanity, commitment, collective work, justice and audacity, working for universal abolition of the death penalty.

Raphaël Chenuil-Hazan

General manager of *Ensemble contre la peine de mort*

Your organisation working for abolition of the death penalty

“*Ensemble contre la peine de mort*” (ECPM) remains convinced that working together makes us stronger. Therefore in 2013 we increased our efforts to **bring together a number of abolitionist forces across the world**. The main event was of course the 5th World Congress against the Death Penalty which ECPM organised last June in Madrid, under the patronage of Spain, Norway, Switzerland and France and in partnership with the World Coalition against the Death Penalty. The Congress brought together 1,500 participants from 93 countries from every continent and it witnessed exceptional political activism with 70 official delegations and more than 200 diplomats.

Following the Regional Congress in Rabat (2012) and the World Congress in Madrid, and in partnership with the Moroccan Coalition against the Death Penalty, ECPM initiated the establishment of the first Parliamentary Network against the Death Penalty in Morocco. This group of 220 MPs has already demonstrated its effectiveness: the abolitionist cause is making headway in Morocco and it has become a very topical subject which is regularly covered by the media. Spurred on by ECPM, this Parliamentary Network is intensifying the pressure on the Moroccan State to move towards abolition.

In the Maghreb region, the first National Conference on the Death Penalty was held in Algiers. In Jordan, ECPM opened the debate by organising a Conference on the Death Penalty at the University of Ajloun. In 2014 your organisation will be helping to organise parliamentary forums: two regional seminars will be held in Burkina Faso and Morocco, and a national seminar will be held in Kurdistan. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, ECPM is initiating the creation and launch of a new Parliamentary Network in Kinshasa this year.

As in previous years, your organisation has taken action to **strengthen the capabilities of local abolitionist players** in various regions of the world and to develop its partnerships on the ground. ECPM has provided significant assistance and support, particularly by holding training sessions with a number of activists from the Moroccan, Lebanese and Tunisian Coalitions against the Death Penalty. Motivated by the success of the National Conference against the Death Penalty in Algeria, a first for ECPM in that particular country, the organisation is supporting the Algerian abolitionist movement in a particularly difficult context and is preparing a prison investigation.

ECPM enthusiastically carries out its mission to **lobby and advocate for abolition**. With its partner, Iran Human Rights, ECPM published the 6th annual report on the death penalty in Iran where 687 executions are to be deplored. Thanks to its partnership with the Moroccan human rights organisation, your organisation was behind a new investigation which resulted in the first report on death row: *Journey to the Cemetery of the Living*. An investigation of Tunisian prisons also resulted in the publication of a report: *Buried Alive*, a monograph of the Death Penalty in Tunisia, which was widely circulated within that country.

2013 confirmed ECPM's desire to **educate and raise awareness about abolition of the death penalty**. Significant awareness and education work was carried out in France, as well as Spain, Morocco, Tunisia and Lebanon. At the initiative of ECPM and the ‘*Association libanaise pour les droits civils*’, the first International Network for Education about Abolition was created in January 2014 in Beirut, a real engine for raising awareness among the younger generation. The first ‘Caravane de l'éducation à l'abolition’ was launched in Tunisia in partnership with the Arab Institute for Human Rights and the Tunisian Coalition against the Death Penalty. Tunisia will also host the next Regional Conference on the Death Penalty in September.

We invite you to find out more about all ECPM's publications and follow our work on our website: www.abolition.fr.

We remain true to our shared values and the entire ECPM team thanks you for your commitment and remains at your service.

The ECPM team

Activity 1

Bring Together Abolitionists to Improve Effectiveness

Toppling the last retentionist areas will require increased effort by all abolitionist players - civil society, politicians, legal players, international institutions – and the emergence of new forms of cooperation to make their work international, regional or local in scale. ECPM's position on the international stage and its initial goal upon foundation (to bring together abolition players) guarantees it's real added value to coordinate collective initiatives in support of abolition. As a federator of civil society at World Congresses and coalitions against the death penalty, ECPM is today a valued partner for States and MPs in concerted lobbying strategies.

5th World Congress Against the Death Penalty in Madrid

The triennial World Congresses against the Death Penalty is an important moment in the international campaign in support of abolition. Each meeting considers four goals in depth:

- Strengthen the capabilities of local players
- Develop joint strategies
- Encourage States to make concrete commitments
- Mobilise public opinion

The Congresses involve consideration of areas of progress and problems which define the path towards universal abolition. However they aim to bring together abolition players who, locally and internationally, are able to contribute effectively to the disappearance of the death penalty from judicial and legislative arsenals.

The 5th World Congress in Madrid in figures

1,500 participants from 93 countries: Europe - 21 countries, Africa - 25 countries, MONA region - 14 countries, Asia - 20 countries and the Americas - 13 countries

200 diplomats from 70 official delegations

85 speakers from 39 different countries

Opening Session, 2 Plenary Sessions, 11 roundtables, 8 workshops, 2 poster sessions and an official Closing Ceremony

On the fringe of debates: 9 civil society meetings, 7 meetings between IGOs and States

More than 450 reports and articles produced in Europe and 60 in retentionist countries

27 organisations represented in the abolition village

45 volunteers and 46 session *rapporteurs*

Unprecedented political activism

Political participation in Madrid was unprecedented with the exceptional presence of 12 Ministers of State: 5 European ministers, 2 ministers from non-European abolitionist countries (Rwanda and the Philippines), 4 ministers from de facto abolitionist countries (Benin, Burkina-Faso and Tunisia) and 1 minister from a retentionist State (Iraq).

Major international institutions (the UN, the 'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie', the European Union, the International Commission Against the Death Penalty) were represented, as well as more than 200 diplomats from 70 delegations and well-known figures such as Robert Badinter and Nobel Peace Prize winners Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Shirin Ebadi and Mareid Macguire.

The desire of ministers of State that are non-abolitionist to speak officially at the Madrid Congress and the official participation, without intervention, of the Algerian and Chad ministers for Justice bear witness to the growing internationalisation of the debate on the death penalty and the impact of the World Congress on that debate. The Madrid Congress will have spread the message among nations which, until now, have been disinclined to participate in the international debate.

Statements of joint commitments:

- Final statement of the participants;
- Statement by the *Core Group* (support group for political activism);
- Resolution by the legal bars, made by the Paris and Beirut Bars with the support of the *Fundacion Abogacia Española*;
- Call for the creation of national parliamentary networks against the death penalty, formulated by the members of the Morocco Parliamentary Network against the Death Penalty.
- Global appeal from Nobel Peace Prize winners against the death penalty, presented by Shirin Ebadi.

Political participation during debates

- Participation from key delegations such as Russia, Tajikistan, Guatemala, Congo, Angola, Jordan, Morocco, Mauritius, Indonesia, Mongolia, Thailand, etc.
- On the fringes of the debates, 16 meetings enabled dialogue between organisational, political and legal players to draw up concerted strategies.

Programme of Debates

The Programme of Debates was drawn up in partnership with the World Coalition through the establishment of a working group composed of 25 voluntary members from all continents.

An Advisory Panel, created especially for this 5th meeting, was responsible for the general direction of the programme and its consistency with previous Congresses.

The Madrid Congress mobilised 85 speakers from 39 countries. The experiences shared by lawyers, activists, representatives from the diplomatic service, academics, magistrates, MPs, representatives from international institutions and sociologists stoked the debates to optimise strategies and redefine action tools for campaigns in support of universal abolition.

1 Opening Ceremony in the auditorium of the Madrid Congress Centre: more than 1,200 participants

2 Plenary Sessions, 800 participants

- The MONA region and the death penalty
- Asia and the death penalty

11 roundtables, 200 participants

5 roundtables focusing on geography

- Iran
- Sub-Saharan Africa: evolution of practices and political influences
- Caribbean region,
- United States: state of play
- Europe: strategies for the future

6 roundtables focusing on themes

- Juveniles and the death penalty across the world
- Drug trafficking and the death penalty: combating trafficking without funding States which execute people
- Legal and diplomatic strategies for foreign nationals sentenced to death
- Abolition and alternative sentences
- Innocence and abolition: a strategic asset for abolition?
- Regional parliamentary networks in support of abolition

8 workshops, 30 to 50 participants

- Terrorism and abolition
- Educating about abolition

- Influential groups for the UN resolution vote
- Educating about abolition
- IGOs and civil society: joint strategies
- Victims' families: an international action network
- China: information tools for the legal community
- The death penalty and torture

2 poster sessions focusing on the presentation of activist action, 11 posters

1 official Closing Ceremony at Cines Callae in the heart of Madrid: more than 800 people

Supporting the work of local players

The World Congresses support networking for players who are still often too isolated with a view to drawing up joint strategies in support of abolition. This helps strengthen their ability to take action and leads to increased renown within the international movement in order to make their work sustainable. In authoritarian countries, networking also protects players who struggle daily in conditions in which their safety is put at risk. With 55 non-abolitionist countries represented, the Madrid Congress fully achieved this goal.

On the fringe of the Congress, ECPM also helped the Maghreb Coalition and the Central and East Africa Coalition hold their first general assemblies.

In-depth media coverage with international scope

In the host country of the 5th Congress, Spanish journalists were very interested in the event, producing more than 300 reports and articles. The international scope of the media coverage was confirmed: the Madrid Congress attracted more than 100 media outlets from about thirty different countries. ECPM made a particular effort to involve journalists from 22 retentionist countries in the Congress' media coverage. Of note are the reports broadcast by the Vietnamese online newspaper, www.vietnamnet.vn, with 6,000,000 daily entries and articles in the Moroccan, Kenyan, Chinese, Pakistani, Iranian, Indian and Palestinian media.

Cultural Programme: original projects to diversify audiences

The Cultural Programme had two aims: offer congress participants an original artistic point of view on the theme and interest a wider audience in the theme by going beyond information and debates. Madrid is a city with great potential for the visual arts. The Cultural Programme was thought for that purpose. The choice of the visual arts also broadened the field of expression by removing the language issue.

For the entire audience: abolition is exported to Madrid

- A showing of *Une peine infinie* by David André, at Casa Encendida, in partnership with Alliance française in Madrid;
- A showing of *Roger McGowen, sentenced to death #889* by Nicolas Pallay, at Cineteca du Matadero Madrid, in partnership with the Swiss Embassy and FIFDH in Geneva;
- A performance of *19 pasos, brazos en cruz* by Felix Fernandez in collaboration with Intermediae Matadero from Madrid – 300 participants;
- *Faces of the death penalty: an evening of stories* with the participation of Nobel Peace Prize winners Ms Shirin Ebadi and Ms Mairead Maguire, Ms Tanya Ibar, wife of a prisoner sentenced to death, Ms Sandra Babcock, a lawyer defending prisoners sentenced to death, Mr Jerry Givens, a former prison guard on death row in Virginia, and Mr Kirk Bloodworth, a former death-sentenced prisoner - 250 participants.

On the premises of the Congress:

The Abolition Village: 27 stands for organisations;

1 bookshop;

7 exhibitions:

- *Words beyond death row* in partnership with Photoespana;
- *An interrupted dream* by the Iranian artist Shirin Salehi, created for the Madrid Congress;
- Exhibition of *Caricatures* by Kianoush Ramezani, an Iranian caricaturist and member of *Cartooning for Peace*;
- Exhibition of *Death is not Justice* by Poster for Tomorrow, an international NGO which considers human rights through graphic art;
- Exhibition of *Sur les chemins de l'abolition* – an ECPM creation;

- Exhibition of the competition: *Dessine moi l'abolition*;
- Garrotting (the execution method used in Spain) presented by REPECAP.

93 countries represented in Madrid saying “No to the death penalty”

Europe: Austria, Belgium, Belarus, Scotland, Spain, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Northern Ireland, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Switzerland, Sweden, United Kingdom;

Africa: Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville, Côte-d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central Africa Republic, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo;

Mona: Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia, Yemen, United Arab Emirates;

Asia: Afghanistan, Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Turkey, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Vietnam

Americas: Argentina, Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, United States, Equator, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Porto Rico, St Lucia, Venezuela, Trinidad and Tobago

Concerted lobbying campaigns: encouraging States to make concrete commitments

Leadership and coordination by the Core Group

From the experience of previous Congresses, which have demonstrated the importance of diplomacy to ensure high-level political representation, ECPM established an informal support group for political activism known as the Core Group. The aims of this new body were to ensure high-level political participation at the World Congress and to make integration of the struggle against the death penalty into the political affairs of member countries sustainable.

Targeting all continents, the Core Group was composed of diplomatic representatives from Argentina, Mexico, France, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, Rwanda, Turkey and Monaco. The International Commission against the Death Penalty was also part of the group. ECPM coordinates it and provides the secretariat.

Thanks to the combined efforts of ECPM and the Core Group, political activism at the Madrid Congress was unprecedented compared to previous Congresses.

ECPM with vice-chair of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

With more than 160 members across the world, the World Coalition is an essential partner in the international abolitionist movement. Founded at the initiative of ECPM, the World Coalition has been an independent organisation since 2012. Continuity of its management is ensured as ECPM remains an elected member of its Steering Committee and is represented by its Director on the Executive Board. ECPM plays a crucial role to guarantee the effectiveness of this major international platform.

Encouraging the creation of national parliamentary networks

The activism of parliamentary groups is a relevant lever for action for progress on the death penalty in individual countries: they are on the front line to appeal to the executive and advocate among their peers.

After the Madrid Congress, and following the example of the Moroccan Parliamentary Network against the Death Penalty, MPs from the Middle East and North Africa region (MONA) expressed their desire to create similar networks.

To encourage this momentum, ECPM organised a parliamentary seminar on the death penalty for the MONA region at the French *Assemblée nationale* and the *Sénat* (in October). The aim was to give the Moroccan

Network international legitimacy and initiate the establishment of similar initiatives in neighbouring countries in order to make them key bodies. They should be capable of making progress on the death penalty and putting it as a priority for their governments.

In the presence of the Chair of the *Assemblée nationale*, Claude Bartolone, the Chair of the *Sénat*, Jean-Pierre Bel, and the French Foreign Affairs Minister, Laurent Fabius, the seminar brought together more than 50 MPs, 40 leaders of organisations and 12 journalists from 9 countries: Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Mauritania and Iraq. At the invitation of Ms Khadija Rouissi, Coordinator of the Moroccan Parliamentary Network against the Death Penalty, a second session will be held at the Parliament in Rabat in 2014.

The creation of the first abolitionist parliamentary network in Morocco

Encouraged by ECPM and the Moroccan Coalition, the first Network of Moroccan MPs Against the Death Penalty was officially announced by **Nouzah Skhalli**, spokesperson for the network and an MP for the Progress and Socialism Party, at the closing ceremony of the Rabat Congress. The MPs drew up the founding charter which initially brought together nearly 200 signatures from all political sides, except the Justice and Development Party. This charter was adopted at the constitutive general assembly of the Network at the Parliament in Rabat on 26 February 2013.

This is a major first in the region and the Moroccan Parliamentary Network operates nationally, regionally and internationally in order to encourage Morocco to make the moratorium on executions official, adopt a legislative text abolishing the death penalty and ratify international treaties on the death penalty.

Today, the Network is composed of 220 members and already issued a first draft law on 7 November 2013.

ECPM action in support of the promotion of International Treaties against the Death Penalty

Strictly speaking, the death penalty is not prohibited under International law but several international instruments limit its use. The main ones are the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), and the American Convention on Human Rights. Every two years the UN General Assembly votes on a universal moratorium on executions. The Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the mechanism used by the UN Human Rights Council, regularly reviews the Human Rights situation of the 192 UN members States with regard to their commitments and obligations in that area.

In collaboration with the organisational partners of its target countries, ECPM lobbies the political authorities to promote international instruments and ensure respect for the commitments made by States during the UPR. In 2013 ECPM actively participated in lobbying international institutions by restating the role of civil society during the annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE-HDIM) in Warsaw, and during the conference organised by the Council of Europe in Minsk on the death penalty and public opinion in Belarus.

Activity 2

Strengthen the capabilities of local players and act alongside them

As the abolitionist struggle supposes local victories, ECPM supports the development of regional and national networks against the death penalty. ECPM strengthens local partners in terms of how they operate and acts alongside them to promote abolition with the decision-makers and citizens of their countries.

Acting within a changing Arab world

After Asia, the Arab world remains the region which executes the most people. ECPM is continuing its efforts to support and strengthen the abolitionist movement in North Africa and the Middle East within the framework of the current political transition.

Action is carried out in collaboration with local organisations: the Moroccan, Tunisian, Lebanese and Iraqi national coalitions, the '*Organisation marocaine des droits humains*', the '*Association libanaise pour une justice transitionnelle*', the '*Association libanaise pour les droits civils*', the '*Ligues des droits de l'homme algérienne*', *Leaders organisation* (territoires palestiniens), *Iran Human rights*, etc. Within this framework, more specifically ECPM supports the Moroccan, Lebanese and Tunisian Coalitions in their national advocacy work.

For these players the Madrid World Congress had to be an opportunity for resources. A plenary session and several roundtables led to fruitful exchanges on the strategies and action to be carried out in the region. With more than 200 ministers, MPs, lawyers, academics and activists from civil society present in Madrid from fourteen countries in the region, the activists were able to fully take their place within the international abolitionist movement. Such unprecedented participation breathed new life into national initiatives. It made the partnerships between ECPM and the region's activists more dynamic.

Although the emergence of Islamic political forces, the permanent economic and social problems as well as the increased number of armed conflicts or acts of violence in some countries make it difficult for regional initiatives against the death penalty to make themselves heard, abolitionist activists have gained margin for manoeuvre to organise and structure their advocacy work.

Strengthening and organising the Moroccan abolitionist movement

In 2013 ECPM initiated the second phase of its programme assisting Morocco with progressive abolition of the death penalty by working with the organisational, political, parliamentary, media and legal actors. Strengthening the capabilities of the Moroccan Coalition against the Death Penalty lies at the heart of this work. The Moroccan Coalition has significantly reviewed its methods of governance through the drafting of founding documents (operational charter, internal regulations, and action plan), the establishment of a new decision-making body (38 steering committee meetings) and the organisation of its first general assemblies which were enthusiastically attended (150 people and several official figures - ambassadors and representatives from the Moroccan Government). The legitimacy and reliability of the action taken by the Moroccan Coalition since 2011 have given it new status, something which was confirmed by its election to the World Coalition Steering Committee and underlined by the Moroccan representative of the 3rd committee of the UN General Assembly in November 2012. ECPM's action has supported review of the Moroccan challenge internationally, particularly by sending a very strong delegation to the 5th World Congress (thirty MPs, lawyers, journalists and members of society).

Assisting the oldest abolitionist civil society in the region in Lebanon

Within the framework of the project initiated with the '*Association libanaise pour les droits civils*' to revive the National Coalition initiated in 1997, and in the face of an unstable security and political context, Lebanese activists and ECPM have combined their efforts to reorganise the Lebanese Coalition, educate younger generations and mobilise lawyers.

The Lebanese Coalition has updated its internal regulations and integrated new players. Twenty of its members have received training on advocating for abolition and 330 students attended awareness workshops. A manual, created from these experiences and aimed at teachers, has been finalised and will be published in 2014. ECPM and the Lebanese Coalition organised a press conference at the Beirut Courthouse for the World Day against the Death Penalty and prepared the 2014 National Conference on the Death Penalty

ECPM action in the region

- 1 Regional Congress (Rabat, 2012) with 450 participants and 21 Human Rights organisations from 12 countries in the region;
- 200 activists from more than 14 countries in the region, 1 Plenary Session and 3 roundtables at the Madrid World Congress;
- Establishment of the first Parliamentary Network against the Death Penalty in Morocco with 250 members. Submission of a draft abolitionist law on 7 November 2013;
- 2 national conferences bringing together 200 participants: Tunisia, Algeria (in partnership with the National Consultative Commission to Promote and Protect Human Rights);
- 2 investigations into death row, more than 2,000 copies published: Morocco, Tunisia;
- More than 2,000 pupils and students made aware of the issue via more than 50 school sessions: Morocco, Lebanon;
- More than 100 activists trained in advocating for abolition: Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon, Palestinian Territories;
- 7 press conferences in 4 countries: Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon, France – Iran;
- Sustained action for the World Day: Morocco, Lebanon, Tunisia, Iraq and Jordan;
- Organisation of official political appointments with senior figures from the target countries: Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon, Algeria, Palestinian Territories;
- 5 educational tools in Arabic for a wide audience;
- First cartoon on the death penalty in French and Arabic;
- First website on the Moroccan abolitionist movement: www.tudert.ma.
- 9 partnership agreements with abolitionist organisations from 5 countries: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Lebanon and Iraq.

In a difficult context, these initiatives mean that the abolitionist dynamic within civil society in the region can be maintained and amplified. Despite the ongoing, very deep-rooted support for the death penalty in societies in the Arab world, the current long running political transitions could, in the long-term, lead to a positive conclusion for abolitionist activists.

Supporting abolition players in central Africa

In this region, classed as one of the least advanced in the world and where human rights violations are increasing, the development of a movement in support of abolition remains a major challenge for ECPM, as it is for the international community. ECPM has supported the work of the Congolese Coalition against the Death Penalty since its creation and the Central and East African Coalition, coordinated by ECPM. ECPM also works with abolitionist MPs.

A dozen MPs and more than twenty organisational managers from seven countries in the region (DRC, Congo Brazzaville, Chad, RCA, Cameroon, Burundi and Rwanda) therefore participated in the 5th World Congress in Madrid, during which the Central African Coalition held its second General Assembly. Two expert members of the working group on the death penalty from the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights also took part in the event to present progress made with regard to drawing up an additional protocol on the death penalty for the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

In 2014 ECPM will prioritise intensification of its support for local players in a region which is key for the progression of abolition in Africa.

Activity 3

Raise awareness and educate about abolition of the death penalty

Educating citizens about Human Rights and abolition of the death penalty

ECPM meets French youth

After 33 years of abolition in France, the issue continues to divide citizens and particularly the younger generation. At an age where the distinction between revenge and justice is still being learned, education about abolition of the death penalty is particularly necessary. Authorised by the national education department, ECPM has continued its educational work in high schools in collaboration with teachers of several subjects (French, English, visual arts, etc.) through a collection of appropriate lesson modules distributed to the partner teachers.

In 2013 a thousand pupils, mainly from disadvantaged areas, received awareness information via a drawing competition called Draw me Abolition (*Dessine-moi l'abolition*; 30 winning drawings were chosen by an international jury and exhibited at the 5th World Congress), the organisation of an exceptional intervention at the Assemblée nationale during the parliamentary seminar on abolition of the death penalty in the MONA region, and a series of interventions on the situation in Morocco in the presence of Ahmed Haou (a Moroccan former death-sentenced prisoner) and Mustapha Mezraoui (Moroccan Coalition Against the Death Penalty).

New for 2013, ECPM broadened its target audience to students via an original approach aiming to raise awareness among them about both the theme and the life cycle in a project applied to human rights. For the first time, members of ECPM led an 8-hour module integrated into the Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Masters II degree at Evry Val d'Essonne University, and provided a tutorial for students from the Sorbonne who would like to organise action to raise awareness about the death penalty (Conference on the death penalty in the United States at the Sorbonne and school interventions).

Educating beyond our borders...

In Morocco with the Moroccan Coalition, 1,500 pupils and students were given information. Using a creative approach (the final minute of a sentenced prisoner, who wants to save a prisoner from execution?), the pupils learned to demonstrate empathy by putting themselves in the place of the various protagonists of an execution in order to understand the stakes of abolition.

In Tunisia with the first Education about Abolition tour, ECPM, in partnership with the Tunisian Coalition, the Arab Institute for Human Rights and the Moroccan Coalition, crisscrossed the entire country and met 270 pupils and students to debate the issue of the death penalty. From Tataouine to Tunis, not forgetting Tozeur, Kasserine and Sfax, the delegation of activists encountered interest from all the pupils they met!

Take action with ECPM against the death penalty and discrimination

In 2013 your organisation has taken action on all fronts: *Pas d'homo a l'échafaud!*, *Fête de l'Huma*, *Cities for Life*, World Day Against the Death Penalty, etc.

At the initiative of ECPM, the city of Paris joined 1,600 towns united in the movement *Cities for Life – Villes pour la vie – Villes contre la peine de mort*, initiated by Sant'Egidio. On 30 November, for its second year as a participant, Paris lit up Victor Hugo's house at place des Vosges in red.

As part of its 9th participation in the LGBT pride march, ECPM marched with its float in the colours of the ten countries which sentence people to death for homosexuality (Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Iran, Mauritania, Nigeria [Northern States], Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen). Thanks to its

20 volunteers, ECPM received several signatures for its petition “Liberia/Uganda, homophobia kills, the struggle continues” denouncing draft laws wanting to establish capital punishment for the crime of homosexuality.

The *Fête de l’Huma* was the expected success with activists, despite the rain, with a new face for its stand “*Dites-non à la peine de mort*” this year thanks to the exhibition of the winning drawings of the Franco-Spanish competition *Dessine-moi l’abolition*.

Our communication tools

The abolition newspaper

Circulated freely, the Abolition Newspaper is produced by the ECPM team and our partner, Ouest France, generously prints 10,000 copies. It is available to download at www.abolition.fr/fr/articles/journal-de-labolition. In 2013 a special edition of the Abolition Newspaper focused on the Madrid World Congress and was published in French, English and Spanish.

Our online tools

ECPM’s online communication policy is to reach a wide audience through its publications on the **website** www.abolition.fr.

ECPM is positioning itself as the benchmark French organisation in terms of communication about the challenges of the Death Penalty via social networks. Information is shared on the **official** [Facebook.com/AssoECPM](https://www.facebook.com/AssoECPM) **page** which is now followed by more than 5,000 people.

The activist message and ECPM’s action reach out internationally with publications in English and Arabic on [Facebook.com/Congresmondialpeinedemort](https://www.facebook.com/Congresmondialpeinedemort) and [Facebook.com/ECPMpeinedemortmondearabe](https://www.facebook.com/ECPMpeinedemortmondearabe).

More concise than Facebook, information is also released via the **official accounts** on **Twitter**: [Twitter.com/AssociationECPM](https://twitter.com/AssociationECPM) (in French) and [Twitter.com/Abolition_2013](https://twitter.com/Abolition_2013) (multilingual), and shared by hundreds of subscribers, bloggers, journalists and political partners.

On the internet ECPM also uses the newsletter system to spread its abolitionist message. Today, the **Abolition Newsletter** has 21,000 active subscribers. In 2013 12 issues were distributed, including 6 in English and French for the 5th World Congress against the Death Penalty in Madrid.

Activity 4

Remove prisoners sentenced to death from isolation

The fate of death-sentenced prisoners within the prison world is marked by the very nature of the punishment inflicted on them which provides no hope of ever leaving. Moreover, their conditions of detention are generally more severe than those of detainees serving fixed sentences.

ECPM is committed to prisoners sentenced to death. It publishes legal investigations and reports and proposes a page for correspondence with prisoners sentenced to death. ECPM also uses its campaigns to denounce emblematic cases for the abolitionist cause.

The Prisoner page: a tool to help prisoners sentenced to death

A forgotten prisoner is already 'halfway' dead, ECPM has developed on its website (abolition.fr), a "Prisoner Page" compiling needs in correspondence with prisoners sentenced to death and presenting identity cards and action accessible by all.

In the United States, among 3,500 prisoners 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 worse: in African countries it is difficult to identify the prisoners. In Japan, they are bound to secrecy.

Act with ECPM:

Start **corresponding** with a prisoner sentenced to death

Join us for campaigns to support prisoners

Tell your friends, family and colleagues about the "Prisoner Page"

Legal investigations: two firsts in Morocco and Tunisia

In the wake of the legal investigations carried out on death row in the Great Lakes region of Africa (published in 2008), ECPM has prepared investigations in Maghreb countries, the first being Morocco and Tunisia which were published in 2013.

These investigations, produced by multidisciplinary teams, aim to identify the situation of prisoners sentenced to death with regard to international standards and to raise particular cases of prisoners who have not had access to a fair trial. They enable us to canvass the local judicial authorities and political decision-makers in order for them to conform to these standards.

For the first time in Morocco, a report on the conditions of detention of prisoners sentenced to death was published following the investigation carried out by ECPM and OMDH with 52 prisoners sentenced to death and imprisoned in 3 prisons (Kenitra, Toulall II de Meknes and Oujda). The results are edifying: two thirds of prisoners sentenced to death suffer from serious psychological problems which should have led to the cancellation of any penal responsibility during the trial, and 35% of them have thought about suicide. On the basis of these results, ECPM and its partners will launch a national campaign in 2014 targeting public opinion, the government and prison institutions.

ECPM published the report of an investigation produced under the direction of the Franco-Tunisian journalist Samy Ghorbal and the involvement of Hela Ammar (jurist), Haey Ouertani (psychologist) and Olfa Riahi (journalist), considering forty Tunisian prisoners sentenced to death. They were able to access 4 establishments which hold prisoners sentenced to death (Monorguia, Manouba, Sfax and Sers). Co-published with Cérés under the title *Le syndrome de Siliana*, the report's publication was an event in Tunisia where more than 1,000 copies were distributed. More than 200 individuals, politicians, journalists and members of civil society, attended the press conference to launch the report covered by the main Tunisian

media outlets. The recommendations made in the report will be taken by ECPM and the Tunisian Coalition to the Tunisian Government.

Iran Campaign: an alarming situation

In partnership with *Iran Human Rights* (IHR), an organisation for exiled Iranians based in Norway, ECPM published an annual report on the state of the death penalty in Iran. The 6th version was presented before more than 20 representatives from human rights organisations.

With a view to the 5th World Congress, six of these organisations (ACAT, IHR, Justice for Iran, *United for Iran*, the Abderrahman Bouroumand Foundation and *Iran Human Rights documentation center*) joined ECPM to alert public opinion to the contributions of the European Union and its members to the international struggle against drugs trafficking in Iran when more than 70% of executions in that country are related to crimes for possessing and trafficking drugs. ECPM, IHR and the World Coalition have lobbied those in charge of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna, the Iranian delegation to the European Parliament in Brussels and the French and Danish Foreign Affairs Ministers. Denmark's decision in April 2014 to suspend its contribution to the UNODC programme in Iran was the first success!

The Iran campaign was at the heart of the World Congress with a roundtable focusing on it in the presence of leading figures such as the Nobel Peace Prize winner Shirin Ebadi and Ahmed Shaheed, the UN Special *Rapporteur* on the Human Rights situation in Iran. Although Emad Baghi, a leading abolitionist activist, was not authorised to leave the country, he was able to send a moving message to the participants.

Respond urgently to a death sentence and support the defenders of the abolition

ECPM is determined to come to the aid of prisoners sentenced to death and defenders of abolition who contact it and where it considers that its assistance model could be useful to the case. ECPM is not a substitute for lawyers from the target countries but it brings its own expertise. The intervention options are adapted to the case being defended: international mobilisation campaign, legal assistance or diplomatic support.

Justice for Hank Skinner!

As his case is emblematic of the malfunctioning of the American justice system, ECPM is demanding 'Justice for Hank!'. After carrying out additional DNA tests, obtained thanks to public generosity, and following the hearing of February 2014, his lawyers will register their recommendations at the end of May 2014. The Court of Appeal will decide on the interpretation of the results of these tests. Hank Skinner has been on death row for more than 7,000 days!

ACTIVITY 5

RUNNING THE ORGANISATION, OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE ORGANISATION

ECPM remains mainly funded by grants from public bodies, principally from abolitionist states and European and French-speaking institutions. Holding the World Congress in Madrid involved a greater diversity of funding sources for 2013. Grants for support for international multi-annual projects are also constantly progressing.

Similarly, the sustainability of grants paid by France via ministries and cooperation and by inter-governmental organisations ensures a more long-term vision and a strengthening of ECPM's structure and employees.

The accountancy firm **Doucet & Beth**, is in charge of drawing up the organisation's accounts and produces the audits required by backers. Their expertise is completed by the account certification carried out by **aux Comptes Schmeltz et associés** which checks that the funds are being used properly in conformity with the organisation's missions.

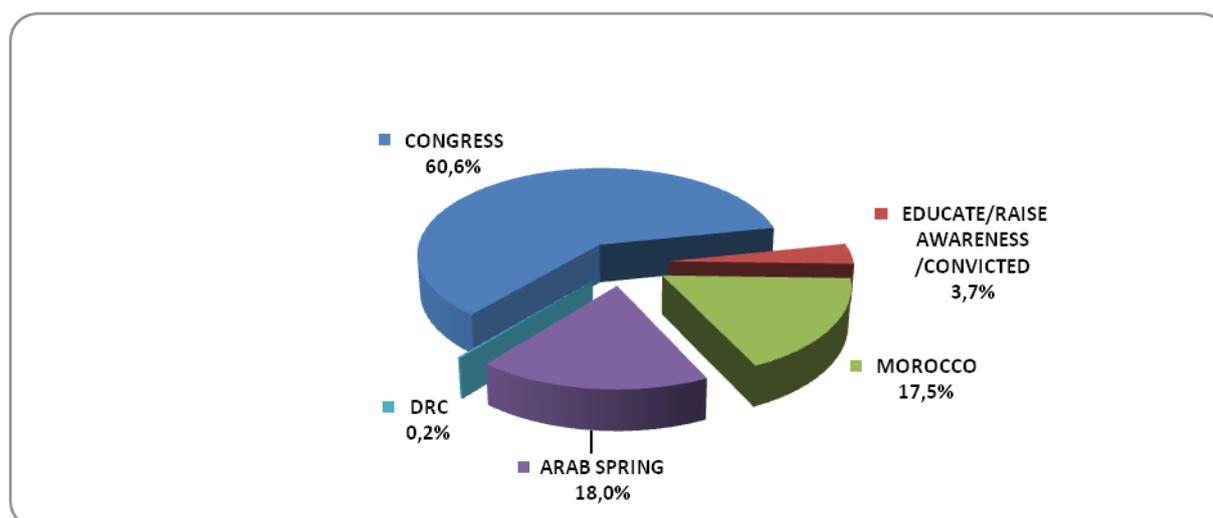
ECPM can therefore guarantee healthy and efficient financial management, in accordance with the strictest rules laid down by the backers and public authorities.

Use of resources by action (estimate)

In 2013 ECPM's work remained strongly influenced by the World Congress with more than 60% of financial resources used for that purpose (compared to 48% in 2012). Such emphasis on this area of work can be justified by the size and scope of the event and also by its complementary nature with projects to strengthen the ability of local players and education. Holding the Congress led to progress in achieving operational goals for those projects, particularly in terms of networking.

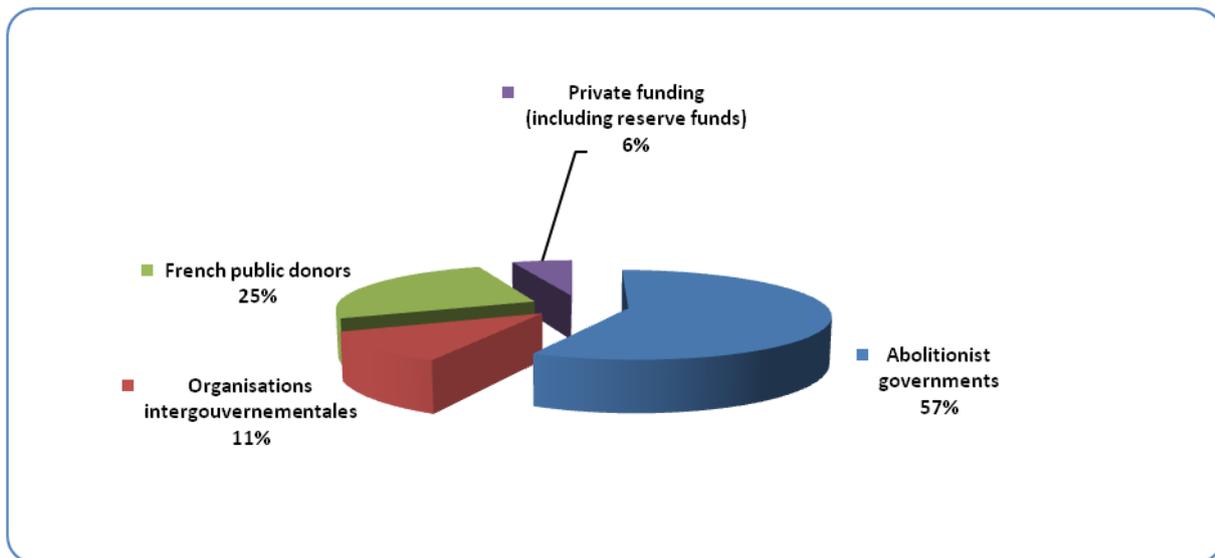
The capacity-building activities of local players are stable (35% in 2013, 37% in 2012) which indicates that there is a balance between the organisation's various lines of work.

Although Education dropped in terms of use of resources (4% in 2013 compared to 8% in 2012), this is only a financial reflection, not an operational one. 2013 was marked by an integration of education operations into all projects through joint action (the Franco-Spanish drawing competition, the Franco-Moroccan correspondence project, etc.).



Analysis of sources of funding

In 2013 public resources amounted to the greatest sum (94%) and private funds remained at 6%. Donations and membership represented 17% of private funds and demonstrated a slight increase in absolute value (18,600 euros in 2013, 13,180 euros in 2012). In 2014 ECPM aims to increase the share of private funds to strengthen its ability to take action and react!



An organisation working for abolition and abolitionist players

The founding values

on aims to organise and support any action which will combat the Death Penalty across the note universal abolition.

ECPM's vision is of a world saying "No to the Death Penalty" together.

ECPM's mission is to bring people together, to federate them and strengthen them to achieve together universal abolition of the Death Penalty.

ECPM's values are to work together in the service for humankind and audacious action towards universal abolition.

A professional organisation

ECPM's system of governance is that of a professional French organisation, composed of members, volunteers and employees, and governed by an annual **General Assembly**, a quarterly **Board of Directors** meeting and monthly **Executive Committee** meetings.