



President's 2016 Report Ensemble contre la peine de mort

Dear Friends and Members of ECPM,
Dear Abolitionists,

Here at ECPM 2015 was a year of preparation and reaction to international events. Just a few weeks before the 6th World Congress Against the Death Penalty, which will be held in Oslo from 21 to 23 June, we successfully organised the *tour de force* that is the first Regional Congress in Asia in partnership with ADPAN, the Asian network against the death penalty. This event was a formidable success and good preparation for the Oslo Congress. It enabled us to commit more quickly than anticipated to a direction for our work in the leading retentionist continent, a direction which should be continued in the years to come. Asia will also be at the heart of the debates in Oslo and the first plenary session. The next World Congress will therefore get underway with unequalled ambitions, particularly as regards very senior political representation thanks to the support of the Core Group which is composed of a number of abolitionist States ready to work with ECPM in preparation for the Congress. It will also be a question of quickly preparing the 7th World Congress, particularly by identifying a location, ambitions and partners. Possibilities are already being envisaged.

ECPM increasingly close to parliamentarians to support abolition

On another continent, our work in sub-Saharan Africa targeting “parliamentarians” is starting to bear fruit, even in the context of 2015. The parliamentary seminar initially planned in Burkina Faso was cancelled because of the Ebola crisis and then the resignation of President Compaoré. It was then reorganised in Brazzaville but had to be cancelled *in extremis* because of the political crisis in Congo due to reform of the Constitution. However, all the work already carried out has not been in vain - quite the contrary. ECPM's work was very influential as regards the introduction of abolition in the proposed new Constitution in Congo. ECPM is now at the heart of parliamentary debates in Africa and is in touch with a large number of influential parliamentary actors who will be able to act as support and spokespeople in our future work (lobbying, World Congress), and in particular the aborted seminar which should take place at the end of 2016 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Audacity guides our public campaigns

The resumption of executions in Indonesia, and the ‘sword of Damocles’ which has hung over our fellow citizen Serge Atlaoui, led us to respond urgently to this situation by launching an international advocacy campaign involving public powers and influential actors in the

economic and cultural sectors in France and across Europe, and public opinion to encourage unprecedented mobilisation. The 'Save Serge Atlaoui and All Prisoners Sentenced to Death in Indonesia' campaign particularly illustrated our value - *audacity*. ECPM's teams were able to respond very quickly to the emergency through innovative forms of mobilisation.

Resumption of international projects

For a few months now, we have been undergoing a period of transition in the life of the organisation's international projects. The project supported by the Swedish Cooperation ended in the summer of 2015, while we obtained an extension to the Morocco project until the summer of 2016. It is now a question of making these projects sustainable by continuing our relations with our former backers, finding new forms of funding and making our work innovative. It will be a question of supporting networks of actors (civil society, parliamentarians, lawyers) and also identifying new actors with whom to work (national human rights institutions – NHRIs -, journalists, others). The EIDHR Death Penalty grant should help us in this respect as long as it can be obtained.

35 years of abolition in France: an opportunity to teach people about ECPM's values

Since the beginning of 2015, we have been experiencing an eventful period with an agenda often dictated by Islamist terrorism. In this particularly complicated political and social context, ECPM is multiplying its efforts to raise awareness about the issue of human rights and access to citizenship. In France, Tunisia, Morocco and Lebanon we have received significantly more requests for intervention from teachers. Once again, ECPM would like to thank the former death penalty prisoners and the families and friends of prisoners sentenced to death whose accounts are particularly appreciated by pupils. Our aim is to help young citizens understand the stakes of the struggle for that most fundamental right – the right to life – and better understand what the words *justice* and *citizenship* mean.

The 35 years of abolition in France to be celebrated in Autumn 2016 will be an opportunity to highlight ECPM and the values and virtues of abolition of the death penalty. Our Educating programme and our activist work will enable us to support these values.

This will also be an opportunity to have a clear and ambitious communication policy (targeting the international stage and the search for partnerships) with updated tools and closer to our needs (French/English website, active and reactive social networks, a continual presence at the various activist events).

ECPM and the networks

We would like ECPM to have a preponderant role within international institutions in the years to come. After intense lobbying, we have just obtained ECOSOC status enabling us to have direct access to the UN institutions in Geneva, New York and Vienna. This status should provide us with numerous opportunities for partnerships and direct intervention. For us, it will be a question of increasing our presence in France and internationally in existing (World Coalition, Coordination SUD, Impact Iran, the Anna Lindh Foundation, HRDN) and future

networks (French Platform for Human Rights NGOs). We will continue to support the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, despite the difficulties it may face.

A stable organisation which is moving forwards

In 2015, we finalised a strategic approach (FRIO) with the assistance of Nexus based on a redefinition of our methods of governance and operation. In particular, this process enabled us to complete the revision of our statutes and to draw up internal regulations. It also reaffirmed the place of volunteers and activism within the organisation. The Volunteers Group of ECPM's educational activities is now an integral part of the organisation and one of its representatives was present at the annual strategic seminar which took place in March 2016.

Despite the departure of a number of senior staff from the organisation, we have been able to bounce back without being destabilised, thus demonstrating the stability and strength of the organisational structure. We have welcomed a number of high-quality professionals, an indication of the organisation's attractiveness. Today, in order to successfully complete its projects and in addition to the members of its Board, ECPM has eight permanent members of staff and several temporary members of staff due to the increased activity surrounding the World Congress. This increase will be accentuated between now and June. However, we must already consider together the creation of an ambitious team for all the organisation's activities and programmes, and continue to work for our common goal - universal abolition of the death penalty. This will first be related to the various projects submitted to the backers which will increase the payroll, particularly in the programme section. On the other hand, it is time to try to have the resources to reflect our ambitions, particularly in the funding and social networks areas by securing a permanent post, which has been temporary thus far, and hiring another individual after the World Congress.

It is in this context that I present this annual summary.

Olivier Déchaud, President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Olivier Déchaud', written in a cursive style.