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8th World Congress against the Death Penalty, the countdown begins!

Preparations are underway for the 8th World Congress against the Death Penalty, which will take place in Berlin from **15-18 November**. More than **1,000 participants** from **90 countries** are expected in the German capital for the most important abolitionist meeting.

Political figures, activists and committed citizens will gather over four days, to debate major issues concerning the death penalty situation around the world.

Numerous key witnesses, former death row prisoners and civil society figures will take the floor during the Congress, whose epicentre will be the Radial System, which will host the abolition village, workshops, debates and conferences with a single objective: to strengthen the fight for universal abolition of the death penalty.

Why a World Congress?

As recent events have shown, rights, sometimes hard-won, can suddenly be called into question. Avoiding the resurgence of capital punishment is therefore a major concern in our societies. With the rise of populism and the radicalisation of approaches to security issues in certain abolitionist states, pro-death penalty movements regularly challenge abolition. Furthermore, the risk of resumption of executions is still present in retentionist countries that have not carried out executions for several years.

Abolition as a global trend

As of 2021, 108 countries and territories had completely abolished the death penalty. 80% of UN member states no longer perform executions and 60% of them are abolitionist. The African continent is moving towards abolition: 45 of the 55 African countries are de jure or de facto abolitionist. Some regions of the world still resist abolitionist thinking and continue to apply the death penalty on a large scale. The five countries with the highest number of executions in 2021 were China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Syria.

For Congress registration and more information on the programme, visit our website www.ecpm.org and follow our news on social networks.

ECPM (Together Against the Death Penalty) is a key organisation in the fight for universal abolition of the death penalty. Created in 2000, the association has been organising the World Congresses against the Death Penalty since 2001 and was behind the creation of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty in 2002. It brings together abolitionist actors from all over the world to increase the capacity of local actors in the fight for universal abolition and to raise awareness about the reality of the death penalty. ECPM is composed of a board of nine volunteer members and a team of fifteen staff members based in Paris.

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