



President Jo Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington DC, 20500
USA

Paris, November 27th 2024

UN Resolution calling for a death penalty moratorium

Dear President Biden,

On behalf of ECPM (Together against the Death Penalty) and members of the World Coalition Against death penalty, made up of 185 member organizations from all continents and with diverse backgrounds, we call on you to uphold your stance on the death penalty as expressed in your electoral manifesto. We commend your country for its pioneering role in abolishing the death penalty, with Michigan in 1846, followed by Wisconsin and Maine also in the 19th century, having abolished the death penalty and paving the way for the US and the world to gradually move away from this inhuman punishment in the decades that followed, especially after the horrors of the two world wars. Today, almost all US states, the federal government and the military no longer carry out executions. A significant number of states have even abolished the practice. In recent years, only eight of the fifty US states still carry out executions, but even those that remain do so on a much smaller scale than years ago.

Your country's progress in abolishing the death penalty is a positive response to the nine calls for a moratorium made by the UN General Assembly. This December at the UN, the US will have an historic opportunity to align its vote with the de facto moratorium already in place in over 80% of the USA by voting in favor of the moratorium or at least abstaining.

This step forward, in line with your progressive policies, will be greatly welcomed and appreciated by your Western allies, by civil society in the USA and around the world, and will serve as an encouragement to the few remaining countries in the world that still use the death penalty to abandon the practice.

Since 2007, a growing number of countries have supported the vote on the moratorium resolution at the UN General Assembly. The vote is a sign, an expression of the political will of courageous leaders like you who have understood the need to put an end to a cruel and barbaric punishment that has claimed the lives of too many innocent people and, in authoritarian regimes, the lives of dissenting voices. As the positive vote does not per se require any prior internal legal or political process in the country, the resolution has always benefited from the votes of a number of non-abolitionist countries.

Mr. President, we invite you to express your valued position on the death penalty at the forthcoming UN General Assembly on the resolution calling for a universal moratorium, and in the meantime to commute all federal and military death sentences to life imprisonment and to dismantle the federal death row facility in Terre Haute, Indiana.

We thank you in advance for your attention and support in this matter.

Respectfully yours,

Aminata Niakate
President of ECPM (Together Against The Death Penalty)

Letter co-signed by:

International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) - France
Women beyond Walls - UK & Zambia
Kurdistan Human Rights Association-Geneva (KMMK-G) - Switzerland
Humanity Diaspo - France
Movement against Racism and for Friendship among People(MRAP) - France
Cure National - USA
Kurdpa Human Rights - Iran
Vivere - Switzerland
Center for Prisoners Rights -Japan
Planète Réfugiés Droits de l'Homme - France
Malaysians Against Death Penalty & Torture (MADPET) - Malaysia
Pax Christi Uvira - Democratic Republic of Congo
Abdorrhman Boroumand Center for Human Rights - Iran
La Culture pour la Paix et la Justice - Democratic Republic of Congo
La Ligue des Droits de l'Homme - France
Anti Death Penalty Asia Network (ADPAN) - Malaysia
Lembaga Bantuan Hukum Masyarakat - Indonesia
German Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty - Germany
World Coalition Against the Death Penalty - France
Witness to Innocence (WTI) - USA
Capital Punishment Justice Project (CPJP) - Australia
Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture (ACAT) - Ghana
Libérons Mumia - France
Transitional Justice Working Group (TJWG) - South Korea
Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture (ACAT) - Germany
Le Centre d'Observation des Droits de l'Homme et d'Assistance Sociale (CODHAS) - Democratic Republic of Congo
Organization Abolition Death Penalty - Iraq
Academics for Abolition - Spain