KYRGYZSTAN

In view of the 8th session of the Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations Human Rights Council, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP), would like to communicate several points concerning the situation of the death penalty in Kyrgyzstan.

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP) gathers 101 members: human rights organizations, professional associations and local authorities on the five continents who have united to campaign for the universal abolition of the death penalty. It was founded in 2002 in Rome. Its actions for 2010 include the World Day Against the Death Penalty, a ratification campaign of the United Nations Protocol aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, a campaign for the implementation of the UN moratorium resolution, and the preparation of the 4th World Congress against the Death Penalty.

Death penalty

1. Kyrgyzstan has not carried out any executions since 1998. It has been an abolitionist country since it revised its Constitution on 30 December 2006. On 27 June 2007 the death penalty was abolished in the Penal Code.

2. Kyrgyzstan has recently demonstrated its attachment to the most important human rights values: it ratified an important United Nations treaty, the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture in 2008; it was elected as a member of the Human Rights Council in 2008 and it has shown its involvement against capital punishment by voting in favor of the two resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty (resolutions 62/149 and 63/168 of the 18 December 2007 and 2008).

3. However, Kyrgyzstan has not ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. This Protocol is extremely important because it is the only international treaty of worldwide scope to provide for total abolition of the death penalty.
The adoption of this Protocol also has a symbolic value: it shows the universal trend towards the abolition of the death penalty, which is considered as a violation of the right to life. It is of utmost importance that all abolitionist countries in the world ratify this Protocol.

4. The WCADP thus urges Kyrgyzstan to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.