In view of the 11th 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 Latvia.

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP) gathers 114 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 include the World Day Against the Death Penalty, a ratification campaign of the United Nations Protocol aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and a campaign for the implementation of the UNGA moratorium resolution.

**Death penalty**

1. Latvia is an abolitionist country for ordinary crimes since 1996. The Criminal Code envisages the death penalty for murder with aggravating circumstances if committed during wartime in its Art. 37 as amended in 2000. As a member state of the Council of Europe, it has ratified Protocol No. 6 to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR) in 1999. Latvia demonstrated its desire to move towards total abolition of capital punishment by signing Protocol No. 13 to the ECHR on 3 May 2002. This Protocol provides for the abolition of capital punishment under all circumstances in times or war as in peacetime. Latvia also firmly expressed its commitment as regards abolition of the death penalty by co-sponsoring and voting in favour of UNGA Resolutions 62/1490 and 63/168 on 18 December 2007 and 2008 for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

2. However, Latvia has not ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. A draft law on the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR was submitted to the Parliament on 21 February 2002, but on May 15, 2002 the legal commission withdrew the law from the first reading. In their response to the ODHHR questionnaire on the death penalty, the Permanent Mission of Latvia to the OSCE stated in July 2008 that Latvia...
was in the process of developing legislation for the abolition of the death penalty in all cases. The country was also in the process of ratifying Protocol No. 13 to the ECHR concerning the abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances, which it signed on 3 May 2002. On 19 May 2008, the Government of Latvia endorsed a draft law on the ratification of the Protocol, and parliamentary approval was being sought. Along with the draft law, corresponding amendments to the criminal law and other relevant legislation were being prepared. In its response to the ODIHR questionnaire on the death penalty on 15 July 2010, the Permanent Mission of Latvia to the OSCE stated that the approval of the parliament was still being sought, and that there have been no further developments.

3. The WCADP thus urges Latvia to ratify both the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and Protocol 13 to the ECHR. It also urges Latvia to abolish the death penalty in the Criminal Code for all crimes, including in times of war.