



Promoting penal
reform worldwide

Penal Reform International submission to the UN Secretary General on the question of the death penalty (developments since 1 July 2011)

10 April 2012

NGO initiatives towards the abolition of the death penalty

Penal Reform International (PRI) convened a global conference in London (United Kingdom) on 19 and 20 September, 2011. The conference was part of a series of activities organised by PRI and its partners to provide a platform for debate and discussion, to increase public awareness, and exchange experiences and lessons learned from key stakeholders from around the globe.

The conference was hosted by the European Commission Representation in the United Kingdom and was implemented with the financial assistance of the European Union, under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), and also with the financial assistance of the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

The conference brought together over 100 representatives from 31 countries¹ representing government, judiciary, lawyers, national human rights committees, prison officials, academics, penal reform and justice experts, inter-governmental organisations², international and local NGOs, and other key global stakeholders working in the fight against the death penalty.

The conference concluded with the adoption of the London Declaration. The London Declaration echoed the determination of all participants to move towards the abolition and humane alternative sanctions, and called upon all retentionist states to take action to implement a moratorium on executions and sentencing, to work towards full abolition of the death penalty, and implement alternatives that are fair, proportionate and respect international human rights.

A conference report was also produced (in English) and distributed to all conference participants (see attached Annex I).

Throughout 2011 PRI have also undertaken a programme of research on the application of the death penalty and the implementation of its alternative sanction (life and long-term imprisonment) in our target regions **Middle East and North Africa** (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen); **Eastern Europe** (Belarus, Russia and Ukraine); **South Caucasus** (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia); **Central Asia** (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan); and **East Africa** (Kenya and Uganda) in partnership with the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI). Although our research papers are

¹ Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, China, France, Georgia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Morocco, Nigeria, Poland, Qatar, Russia, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States of America.

² United Nations, Organization for Security Cooperation in Europe, African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, the European Union, and the International Commission Against the Death Penalty.

pending publication, we have finalised the Central Asia and East Africa papers (please find attached at Annex II and Annex III).

Unfortunately we cannot provide a cross-regional submission, however we hope that these three publications might still be helpful for the compilation of the UN Secretary General's report on the status of the death penalty.

For further information, please contact:

Ms Jacqueline Macalesher, Death Penalty Project Manager
Penal Reform International, 60-62 Commercial Street, London E1 6LT, UK
jmacalesher@penalreform.org / +44(0) 207 247 6515