



Commission Nationale Consultative pour la Promotion et la Protection des Droits de l'Homme (Algerian National Consultative Committee for the Advancement and Protection of Human Rights)

Algeria Declaration on the Implementation of the United Nations Resolutions on a Moratorium on the use of the Death Penalty

We, national human rights committees, representatives of civil organisations opposing the death penalty, and Arab alliances, meeting in Algeria 12-13 January 2009 in the regional symposium on implementation in the Arab world of the UN recommendations for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, at the invitation of the Algerian National Consultative Committee for the Advancement and Protection of Human Rights, in participation with Penal Reform International declare the following:

1. We note and value the position of Algeria in adopting and voting for UN resolutions 62/149 and 63/168 related to a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, and call for their implementation at the earliest possible date.
2. We urge the Arab world, as an integral part of the international community and in view of its role in discussing the above resolutions, to implement them.
3. We call on members of the Arab League to introduce amendments to Article 07 of the Arab Charter for Human Rights absolutely to prohibit the sentencing to death and execution of those under the age of eighteen.
4. We urge human rights activists in the Arab world to play their part in making society aware of what relates to abandoning a culture of violence and revenge and the spread of a culture of human rights, especially the individual's right to life and physical safety.
5. We insist on the need for civil society, and national and regional alliances to continue and intensify their activities aimed at raising public awareness so that public opinion is influenced to accept the elimination of the death penalty, and to restrict and abolish it in line with the particular circumstances and readiness of each country, thus supporting the ambition of citizens to achieve justice, while working towards strengthening and protecting human rights.
6. We encourage Arab countries to declare a cessation of the use of the death penalty and to establish this in law.
7. We call upon Arab countries to ratify the Second Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.
8. We call on the judiciary to limit the use of the death penalty and to guarantee that international standards for a fair trial are not violated.
9. We encourage the media, given its effective and influential role in raising public awareness and sensitivity, to play its part in ensuring that people understand the principles underlying this issue.

Algiers, 13 January 2009