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PROVISIONAL ACADEMIC PROGRAM FOR ASIAN REGIONAL CONGRESS

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PLENARY SESSION: DRUGS AND DEATH PENALTY

In the latest death sentences pronounced in Asia in the context of drug trafficking cases, the main argument used was the number of victims caused by drug use in Asia. However, few figures are communicated by the judiciary or medical authorities concerning the evolution of drug use in the region.

Information from the ground is essential, to open a debate on the inefficiency of death penalty to fight drugs to contradict the argument prominent in civil society that death penalty is the only way to fight drugs trafficking.

WORKSHOP 1: THE MANDATORY DEATH PENALTY

As most of the Asian public is in favor of the capital punishment, distinguishing between the death penalty in general and the mandatory death penalty in particular is crucial to advance the abolitionist cause. Offering the possibility of judging on a case-by-case basis is necessary to help advance legislation.

TESTIMONIES: JUDICIAL OFFICIALS/JUDGES AND THE DEATH PENALTY

This session is the opportunity to give voices to judges/ judicial officials, to testify their personal experiences when dealing with a death penalty case: how they made decisions; what their reflections are.

FIRST ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: DIPLOMACY AND DEATH PENALTY

The diplomatic pressure tactics are a useful tool to advance the cause of human rights and the abolition of the death penalty. The significance of the diplomatic role of the Holy See and Spain in the abolition process in the Philippines is one example.

At a time when numerous Asian citizens are sentenced to death in the Arabic peninsula and numerous citizens from Europe and the Pacific area are convicted in Asia, a diplomatic and consular cooperation between these regions would help guaranteeing a better defense for the accused and the respect of their rights.

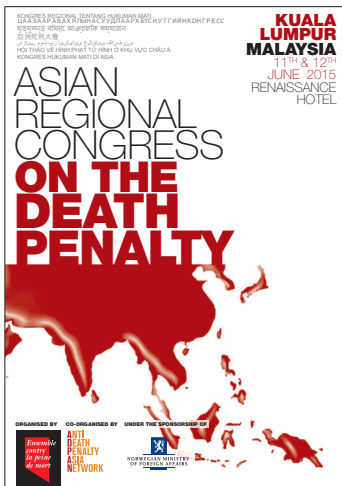
Regional organizations, such as ASEAN in Asia, are key players in the promotion of abolition. UN agencies, such as the UNODC, also have a role to play through the integration of the respect of the right to life in the conditions of their support to the fight against drug trafficking.

WORKSHOP 2: DIPLOMACY AND DEATH PENALTY

Following the roundtable on diplomacy and death penalty, this workshop will be the opportunity of sharing experiences with different INGO present at the Regional Congress, to develop common strategies adapted to the particular context of the considered area: East and South East Asia.

WORKSHOP 3: WORKING WITH THE VICTIMS' FAMILIES

The death penalty should not be only tackled through law and legislation approaches. Telling stories, talking about individuals who are directly affected by the death penalty is essential to



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raise awareness among the media and the public. During the 4th World Congress that took place in Geneva in 2010, the testimony of both an ex-IRA member and the daughter of one of his victims marked the spirits, by showing that forgiveness is possible.

It is also important, for that work to be efficient, to create educational tools, which take into account the regional particularities of the targeted zone, in order to work with the victims' families' testimonies. The workshop should focus on how we can work with the victim's family from an NGO's point of view. How to reach them without scare them away and develop a relationship with the victim's family. How to reach out to different victims groups and work with them.

WORKSHOP 4: TEACHING ABOLITION

ECPM developed an educational program adapted to the French academic system that has been duplicated in Morocco, between other countries. This workshop should be an opportunity to replicate the experiment in Asia, by developing educational programs destined to each country of the targeted zone.

SECOND ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION: THE ELEMENTS OF UNFAIR TRIALS

The lack of transparency in the judiciary sector in the Asian region, for pronounced sentences as well as procedures, does not allow guaranteeing the rights of the defense. The weakest people are unable to face the pressures exerted by different judicial bodies – police forces during the arrest, law court during the trial, etc.

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- **Nancy Shukri** - Minister of Law of Malaysia
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- **L. Bold** - Former Minister of Foreign Affairs in Mongolia and current Member of Parliament of Mongolia
- **Hanne Sophie Greve** - Commissioner at the International Commission against the Death Penalty and judge and Vice President of the Gulating High Court for Western Norway
- **Stephen Thiru** - President of Bar council Malaysia
- **Tan Sri Hasmy Agam** - Chairman of the National Commission for Human Rights (SUHAKAM)

INTERNATIONAL NGO:

- ECPM (Together Against the Death Penalty) • ADPAN (Anti-Death Penalty Asian Network) • Amnesty International • FIDH (International Federation for Human Right)
- Harm Reduction • Death Penalty Project • Reprieve • World Coalition against the Death Penalty
- PGA

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS:

- UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) • AICHR (ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights)

* To be confirmed

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