

AFRICAN REGIONAL CONGRESS AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

9 AND 10 APRIL 2018
ABIDJAN (CÔTE D'IVOIRE)

**AFRICAN
REGIONAL CONGRESS
AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY**
9 AND 10 APRIL 2018
ABIDJAN (CÔTE D'IVOIRE)

The African Congress Against the Death Penalty is organised
by



in partnership with



under the sponsorship of



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM
Federal Public Service
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ORGANISATION
INTERNATIONALE DE
la francophonie

Project funding



Cultural evening of the 10th april organised with the support of



STIFTUNG FÜR DIE FREIHEIT

Medias partnerships



THE CONGRESS AT A GLANCE

| Monday 9 th april | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Congress center of the MFA | CRRAE HALL Ground Floor | CRRAE AUDITORIUM 1 st floor | CRRAE Room RC14 Ground Floor | CRRAE Room RC15 Ground Floor | CRRAE Room M07 1 st floor | |
| 8:30am | Doors open at 8:45 (welcome coffee) | | | | | |
| 9am | | | | | | |
| 9:30am | Official opening ceremony 02:30 | | | | | |
| 10am | | | | | | |
| 10:30am | | | | | | |
| 11am | | | | | | |
| 11:30am | | | | | | |
| 12am | Walk to CRRAE 10' | | | | | |
| 12:30pm | | | | | | |
| 1pm | Lunch 2:00 | | | | | |
| 1:30pm | | | | | | |
| 2pm | | | | | | |
| 2:30pm | | | | | | |
| 3pm | | | | | | |
| 3:30pm | | | | | | |
| 4pm | Coffee break 30' | | | | | |
| 4:30pm | | | | | | |
| 5pm | | | | | | |
| 5:30pm | | | | | | |
| 6pm | | | | | | |
| Tuesday 10 th april | | | | | | |
| 8:30am | Welcome coffee 30' | | | | | |
| 9am | | | | | | |
| 9:30am | | | | | | |
| 10am | | | | | | |
| 10:30am | Plenary session | | | | | |
| 11am | Death penalty, poverty and conditions of detention: from one World Day Against the Death Penalty to another 02:00 | | | | | |
| 11:30am | Workshop Mobilising the youth 01:00 | | | | | |
| 12am | | | | | | |
| 12:30pm | | | | | | |
| 1pm | Lunch 2:00 | | | | | |
| 1:30pm | | | | | | |
| 2pm | | | | | | |
| 2:30pm | Roundtable | | | | | |
| 3pm | Death penalty, a political tool 02:00 | | | | | |
| 3:30pm | | | | | | |
| 4pm | Pause 30' | | | | | |
| 4:30pm | | | | | | |
| 5pm | Closing ceremony 01:30 | | | | | |
| 5:30pm | | | | | | |
| 6pm | | | | | | |
| 8pm | Concert Against the Death Penalty (from 8pm to 9:30pm, at the Institut Français) Artist: Kajeem 1 st part: Collectif « Au nom du slam » | | | | | |

Concert Against the Death Penalty (from 8pm to 9:30pm, at the Institut Français)
Artist: Kajeem 1st part: Collectif « Au nom du slam »

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

A **solemn opening ceremony** will take place prior to the debates from 10am to 12pm on 9 April at the Conference Centre of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The **closing ceremony** will be held at the CRRAE from 4pm to 6pm on 10 April. This will be followed by a **cultural evening** at the Institut Français from 8pm to 9:30pm.

Day 1 Monday 9th April 2018 - CRRAE

FROM 2PM TO 4PM - AUDITORIUM

Roundtable “Death penalty, a colonial heritage?”

Precolonial criminal punishment practices often relied on banishment or compensation. This roundtable aims to highlight the links between pre-colonial history and the different legacies of colonisations (first arabic,, then european) in the use of the death penalty in various African regions.

Moderator **Aminata Niakate** (France) - Lawyer, Trustee of Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM)
Speakers **Alice Mogwe** (Botswana) - Lawyer, Director of DITSHWANELO - The Botswana Centre for Human Rights, Secretary General of the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (FIDH)
Bainguié Emmanuel Ibo (Ivory Coast) - Customary chief of the village of Domolon in the Department of Alépé, Mé region. Member of the National Chamber of Kings and Traditional Chiefs of Côte d'Ivoire
Carlson Anyangwe (Cameroon) - Researcher and Law Professor, expert of the working Group on death penalty and extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions in Africa of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)

FROM 2PM TO 4PM - ROOM M07 • *Attended by parliamentarians aiming MP's networking.*

Panel “Involving parliamentarians”

The role of legislature is essential in the process of abolition. Members of parliaments are often on the front lines of discussions on the death penalty subject.

Moderator **Jean Paul Soro** (Ivory Coast) - Former member of the Parliament of Côte d'Ivoire
Speakers **Hon Anne Seydoux-Christe** (Switzerland) - Senator, Councilor for the States, representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie (APF)
Nouzha Skalli (Morocco) - Spokesperson of the Network of Parliamentarians Against the Death Penalty in Morocco (RPCPM)
Sidibe Abdoulaye (Ivory Coast), Chairman of the General and Institutional Affairs Committee, National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire (KJ)
Hon Jessie Majome (Zimbabwe) - Member of Parliament, President of the PGA National Group in Zimbabwe and member of the PGA International Council

FROM 2PM TO 6PM - ROOM RC14 • *Closed session by invitation only*

Closed meeting “Capitalisation Workshop on the Abolition of the Death Penalty in Africa”

This capitalisation workshop is open to all members of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty and the ACAT members who participated in the project for the abolition of the death penalty in Africa (2015-2018). It will allow civil society to reflect on the past three years and develop strategies for the future.

4PM TO 4:30PM: COFFEE BREAK

FROM 4:30PM TO 5:30PM - ROOM M07 • *Session intended primarily for journalists/bloggers*

Workshop “Media training: how to report on the death penalty and related issues”

The media have a responsibility in the public image of criminals facing the death penalty and in the emotion caused by a story. From the particular story to the political issues, how can journalists pass on the abolitionist message?

Moderator **Bérangère Portalier** (France) - Communication Manager at ECPM
Speakers **Pete Ouko** (Kenya) - Former death row prisoner (Kenya)
Sandrine Ageorges Skinner (France) - Wife of Hank Skinner, sentenced to death in the USA (Texas) since 1995

FROM 8:30AM TO 10AM - ROOM M07

Closed meeting “Francophone African Coalition”

Creation of a Francophone African coalition against the death penalty in order for abolitionist NGOs in francophone Africa to have a platform to join forces in their common struggle against the death penalty.

Moderator **Lievain Ngondji** (DRC) - Lawyer, President of the association Culture for Peace and Justice

FROM 10AM TO NOON - AUDITORIUM

**Plenary Session “Death penalty, poverty and prison conditions:
From one World Day Against the Death Penalty to another”**

A constant pattern in the use of the death penalty is its inextricable connection to poverty. Poverty has a negative impact on every step of the penal procedure and affects living conditions in death row. The aim is to link the 2017 World Day Against the Death Penalty, which was dedicated to the theme of poverty, to the World Day in 2018, which will focus on conditions of detention on death row.

Moderator **Annemarie Pieters** (Belgium) - Vice President of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP)

Speakers
Hon. Marou Amadou (Niger) - Minister of Justice and Spokesman of the Government of Niger
Rafiou Adjama (Benin) - Son of Ossenou Inoussa Adjama, from Togo, sentenced to death in Benin
Lievain Ngondji (DRC) - Lawyer, President of the association Culture for Peace and Justice
Colins Okeke (Nigeria) - Lawyer at Human Rights Law Service (HURILAWS)
Tendai Biti (Zimbabwe) - Lawyer, former Minister of Finance, President of the People's Democratic Party since 2015
Bochra Bel Haj Hmida (Tunisia) - Lawyer and parliamentarian, co-founder of the Tunisian Association of Democratic Women (ATFD)

FROM 11AM TO 12PM - ROOM RC14

Workshop “Mobilising the youth”

This workshop will discuss the different ways of mobilising young people to encourage a change of mindset on the issue of the abolition of the death penalty.

Moderator **Charlène Martin** (France) - Education Officer at ECPM)

Speakers
Suzanne Mangomba (DRC) - DRC Project Coordinator at the association Culture for Peace and Justice
Susan Kigula (Uganda) - Former- death row prisoner in Uganda, released in 2016
Ndume Olatushani (USA) - Former death row prisoner in USA.

12PM TO 2PM: LUNCH

FROM 2PM TO 4PM - AUDITORIUM

Roundtable “Death penalty, a political tool”

In numerous countries, the death penalty is being applied under anti-terrorist laws and/or by military courts. How are those emergency laws used as political tools, thereby creating challenges for democracy?

Moderator **Guillaume Colin** (France) - Deputy Executive Director of the International Federation of Christian Action for the Abolition of Torture (FIACAT)

Speakers
Alain Ory (Ivory Coast) - Deputy Prosecutor of the Republic and President of the Court of First Instance of Yopougon, Abidjan
Fatimata M'Baye (Mauritania) - Lawyer and President of the Mauritanian Association of Human Rights (AMDH)
Teresa Mutua (Kenya) - Advocate of High Court of Kenya and Programme Manager, Access to Justice at The Kenya Section of International Commission of Jurists
Mwamus Mwamba Mushikonke (DRC) - Lawyer, president of the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR)
Sandrine Dacga Djatche (Cameroun) - Lawyer, member of the Network of Cameroonian Lawyers Against the Death Penalty (RACOPEM)
Salomon Nodjitouloum (Chad), President of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture (ACAT), Chad

FROM 2PM TO 3PM - ROOM RC14

Panel “The mandatory death penalty”

Over the past twenty years, there has been a significant global movement away from the mandatory death penalty. In Africa, the highest courts in Uganda, Malawi and, most recently, Kenya have all reached the same conclusion: the death penalty cannot be imposed without judicial discretion allowing the consideration of the gravity of the offence and any mitigating circumstances.

Moderator **Annette So** (United Kingdom) - Head of Development and Legal Affairs at the Death Penalty Project (DDP)

Speakers
Livingstone Sewanyana (Uganda) - Executive Director of the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) and independent expert of the United Nations on the promotion of a new democratic and equitable international order
Andrew Novak (United-States) - Assistant Professor of Criminology, Law and Society, George Mason University, USA

FROM 2PM TO 3PM - ROOM M07

Workshop “Best practices for an irreversible abolition in Africa”*In 2017, 22 African states were regarded as de facto abolitionist countries. How can they move to an irreversible abolition?***Moderator** **Amy Bergquist** (United-States) - Lawyer, Advocacy Coordinator at the Advocates for Human Rights (AHR), at the United Nations and Regional Human Rights Bodies**Speakers** **Philip Iya** (South Africa) - Professor of Law and member of the Working Group on the Death Penalty of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)**Alice Mogwe** (Botswana) - Lawyer, director of DITSHWANELO - The Botswana Centre for Human Rights, secretary general of the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (FIDH)**Asunta Cavalier** (Spain) - Director of the International Commission Against the Death Penalty (ICDP)**Sharon Pia Hickey** (Ireland) - Research and Advocacy Director Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide

FROM 2PM TO 3PM - ROOM RC15

Workshop “Africans on death row in foreign countries: a consular duty”*Numerous citizens from African countries, whether abolitionist or not, are being sentenced to death and executed around the world. Which democratic measures can be taken by those States, and how can they be included in advocacy toward the abolition?***Moderator** **Oluwatosin Popoola** (Nigeria) - Lawyer and Amnesty International advisor on the death penalty**Speakers** **Chino Obiagwu** (Nigeria) - Founding member and Director of the Legal Defense and Assistance Project (LEDAP)**Chow Ying Ngeow** (Malaysia) - Member of the steering committee of Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network (ADPAN) **Representative** of the National Commission of Human Rights of Côte d'Ivoire (CNDHCI)

FROM 3PM TO 4PM - ROOM RC14

Panel “The key role of international and regional protocols”*The purpose of this panel is to inform and discuss with the civil society the importance of ratifying the regional and international protocols for the abolition of the death penalty. This will include the “draft Additional Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Abolition of the Death Penalty in Africa”, aiming to be ratified by the African Union.***Moderator** **Aurélie Plaçais** (France) - Director of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP)**Speakers** **Paul Angaman** (Ivory Coast) - President of FIACAT (International Federation of Christian Action for the Abolition of Torture)**Maya Sahli Fadel** (Algeria) - Commissioner, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (CADHP)**Clément Capo-Chichi** (Benin) - Expert of the Working Group on the death penalty and extrajudicial executions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)

FROM 3PM TO 4PM - ROOM RC15

Panel “Legal representation of people facing the death penalty”*With African lawyers who are involved in the abolitionist fight. This panel will discuss legal representation of people facing the death penalty, from their arrest to their request for pardon.***Moderator** **Annette So** (United-Kingdom) - Development and Legal Officer at the Death Penalty Project (DPP)**Speakers** **Basil Ader** (France) - Lawyer and Vice-President of the Paris Bar**Issouf Baadhio** (Burkina Faso) - Lawyer and former President of the Burkina Faso Bar Association, from 2009 to 2012. President-elect of the International Union of Lawyers (UIA)**Fulgence Massawe** (Tanzania) - Attorney at the Tanzanian Supreme Court, member of the Legal and Human Rights Center (LHRC)**Nestor Toko** (Cameroon) - President of the Lawyers Network against the Death Penalty in Cameroon (RACOPEM)

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM - AUDITORIUM

Closing ceremony

8:00 PM

Concert Against the Death Penalty

(from 8pm to 9pm, at the Institut Français - Avenue Franchet d'Esperey, Abidjan)

Artiste**Kajeem**1st part: “Au nom du slam”

Keep the invitation available in your congress kit.

This invitation is valid for one person. It will give you access to the concert for free. Don't forget to bring it with you.

MEET OUR WITNESSES

The five witnesses present throughout the Congress will take part in the debates and ceremonies, in order to share their own experience.

PETE OUKO

Former death row prisoner, Kenya

Sentenced to death in Kenya for murder in 2001 at the age of 31, Pete Ouko, then a father of two young children, has always denied committing the crime. Detained for nearly 18 years in a cell with 13 other prisoners, 23 and a half hours out of 24, he testifies about the difficulty to survive in the uncertain expectation of execution in very challenging circumstances. Graced and released on October 26, 2017, he is now a graduate of the University of the London Law University and is committed to the defense of the rights of prisoners in Africa with the support of the Youth Safety Awareness Initiative, which he is the Founder and CEO.

RAFIU ADJAMA

Son of the person sentenced to death ADJAMA Osséni Inoussa, Togolese nationality, Benin

As a young teenager, Rafiou Adjama saw his father arrested and then sentenced to death in Benin for complicity in a robbery of a bank. He was forced to give up his studies and had to engage in odd jobs in order to meet the needs of his family and secondly to buy the necessary drugs for the survival of his father who fell ill because of his conditions of detention. Detained since 1999, Rafiou Adjama's father has had his sentence commuted to life in 2018 but continues to serve his sentence in the Akpro-misséré-té civil prison.

ARTHUR JUDAH ANGEL

Former death row prisoner, Nigeria

Sentenced to death in Nigeria for murder in 1986 at the age of 21, Arthur Judah Angel has always denied having committed the charges against him. The artist, who is incarcerated in Enugu Prison in Nigeria, lived in particularly difficult conditions: he had to face a date of execution canceled at the last moment and witnessed 58 executions scheduled on the same day. He was finally released in 2000 after 16 years of incarceration, among these, nearly 10 on death row.

SUSAN KIGULA

Former death row prisoner, Uganda

*Sentenced to death in Uganda for killing her husband, Susan Kigula has never stopped claiming her innocence. Initiator of a death row inmates' choir, a law graduate from the University of London, she finally got her release after 15 years in prison, to the point of becoming, in her country, a real symbol of the fight against the death penalty. Susan Kigula was released from prison in January 2016. She has since founded the *Susan Kigula African Child Foundation*.*

NDUME OLATUSHANI

Former death row prisoner, USA

Ndume spent 28 years in prison in the United States, 20 of them on death row, for a crime he did not commit. He was saved by his discovery of drawing and painting, and helped throughout his detention by his family and friends, and abolitionist organisations. Today, he continues to campaign powerfully against the death penalty through his contact with young people.