

**Statement on behalf of the Paris Bar Association and the World Coalition Against the
Death Penalty**

***Human Dimension Implementation Meeting 2019,
Warsaw, 16 September 2019 - 27 September 2019***

*September 23rd/ Working session 11: Rule of law II, including: – Prevention of torture
– Exchange of views on the question of abolition of capital punishment – Protection
of human rights and fighting terrorism*

On behalf of the Paris Bar Association and the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, we welcome the OSCE report entitled "The Death Penalty in the OSCE Region: Background Paper 2019". This essential tool to increase transparency in this area and promote constructive dialogues refers in particular to the Global Coalition's position that conditions of detention on death row, often accompanied by isolation and a crucial lack of medical care, can amount to torture.

The situation of foreign combatants sentenced to death in Iraq is also a point addressed in the OSCE report. Eleven French nationals and two Belgians were recently sentenced to death by the Iraqi authorities following expeditious proceedings with a high risk of having been victims of torture during interrogations.

The Iraqi state is one of the countries in the world which executes the largest number of persons with more than 177 executions in the last two years. Iraqi law provides for the death penalty for anyone found guilty of belonging to a "terrorist" organization, whether or not the accused has fought.

We call on the Member States concerned to do their utmost to ensure that the death penalty is not carried out, to provide quality consular protection for all their nationals detained abroad - whatever the crime they may have committed - and to consider, with due respect for the sovereignty of States, that their nationals implicated because of their membership of the organisation "Islamic State" may be surrendered to their national courts for trial and, if necessary, to execute their sentence.

The Paris Bar and the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty call on all Member States:

- to support the World Day against the Death Penalty. In connection with the 30th anniversary of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, this year's focus is on the children of parents sentenced to death or executed who bear a heavy emotional and psychological burden that can significantly affect their rights.
- to join the call of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Resolution regarding Belarus and the USA, "to establish a moratorium on all death sentences and executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty";
- call on the two countries where a moratorium is in place, namely Russia and Tajikistan, to become full abolitionists in law;
- call on participating states which are not party to the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR and to the Protocols 6 and 13 of the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms to ratify those treaties and to provide information about the ratification process.

