

5th World Congress against the Death Penalty - Madrid, 12-15 June 2013

The move towards abolition of the death penalty is no longer a concern of a minority of states. More than 60 years after the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights the trend towards abolition is clear. Today, some 150 countries have abolished the death penalty in law or practice. The fact that more than two-thirds of all states have shunned the death penalty has led the UN General Assembly to adopt resolutions calling on states which retain capital punishment to establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty.

Since 2001 those involved in the international movement for the repeal of capital punishment have convened every three years for a World Congress against the Death Penalty organised by [Ensemble Contre la Peine de Mort \(ECPM – Together against the Death Penalty\)](#) in partnership with the [World Coalition against the Death Penalty](#). The first World Congress took place in Strasbourg in 2001, followed by Montreal in 2004, Paris in 2007, and Geneva in 2010. Against this background the 5th World Congress will be held in Madrid from 12 to 15 June 2013, at the invitation of the Spanish government, and with the support of the governments of France, Norway and Switzerland. ICDP is a supporter of the 5th World Congress and will be represented by its President Mr Mayor, and Commissioners Mr Badinter and Ms Greve.

More than 1,500 people from over 90 countries are expected to attend the Madrid Congress. Among them will be prominent political and cultural persons with a high profile in the abolitionist movement. During the three days non-governmental organizations (NGOs), politicians, lawyers and academics will review death penalty developments and discuss abolitionist strategies at the national, regional and international levels with a specific focus on the regions of Africa and the Middle East. These strategies will encourage complimentary action by States, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs.

Enormous progress that has been made towards the abolition of capital punishment but despite this positive international trend there is no room for complacency as long as some States continue to use the death penalty. The 5th World Congress is an opportunity to celebrate achievements, review current challenges and define future strategies to achieve a death penalty free world.

For further information click here <http://congres.abolition.fr/world-congress-in-madrid/article/nouvelle-traduction-programme-des> for full program