Response to the Call for inputs for the Secretary-General's report on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty:
Transparency and availability of data on death penalty practices

Submitted by The Advocates for Human Rights
a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1996
Humans Remain
ACAT Liberia
The Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty
Death Penalty Focus
in Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council since 2017
Kurdistan without Genocide
and
The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

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The Advocates for Human Rights (The Advocates) is a volunteer-based non-governmental organization committed to the impartial promotion and protection of international human rights standards and the rule of law since its founding in 1983. The Advocates conducts a range of programs to promote human rights in the United States and around the world, including monitoring and fact finding, direct legal representation, education and training, and publication. The Advocates is the primary provider of legal services to low-income asylum seekers in the Upper Midwest region of the United States. The Advocates is committed to ensuring human rights protection for women around the world. The Advocates has published more than 25 reports on violence against women as a human rights issue, provided consultation and commentary of draft laws on domestic violence, and trained lawyers, police, prosecutors, judges, and other law enforcement personnel to effectively implement new and existing laws on domestic violence. In 1991, The Advocates adopted a formal commitment to oppose the death penalty worldwide and organized a death penalty project to provide pro bono assistance on post-conviction appeals, as well as education and advocacy to end capital punishment. The Advocates currently holds a seat on the Steering Committee of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

Humans Remain stands as an advocacy effort dedicated to supporting Death Row prisoners in Mississippi and amplifying their voices. Through educating, storytelling and campaigning we work towards the worldwide abolition of the death penalty seeking justice that is humane, equitable and compassionate.

Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture (ACAT Liberia) is a national non-governmental organization founded in May 2004. It is a national human rights organization that works to promote, defend and protect human rights by advocating for reform in the criminal justice

system (police, court and correction), the abolition of the death penalty, abolition of torture and the rehabilitation of its victims. ACAT Liberia is a member of the International Federation of ACATs (FIACAT) based in France. FIACAT has member associations in 30 countries on 4 continents around the globe. ACAT Liberia is also a member of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

The Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty (TAEDP) is the first coalition in Taiwan dedicated to abolishing the death penalty and promoting reform of the criminal justice system. Established in 2003, it brings together abolitionist groups, NGOs, and research institutes. TAEDP works on individual capital cases, monitors trial procedures to safeguard fair trial rights, and campaigns to prevent wrongful executions. The organization also provides training and seminars for criminal defense lawyers. Beyond capital punishment, TAEDP advocates for victims' rights and stronger support systems for those affected by serious crimes. It engages the public through forums, seminars, and educational programs developed in collaboration with teachers.

Death Penalty Focus is committed to the abolition of the death penalty through public education, grassroots organizing, political advocacy, media outreach, and domestic and international coalition-building since 1988. Over the past 38 years, DPF has continued to raise awareness of how broken the death penalty system is.

Kurdistan without Genocide (KWG) is a non-governmental and non-profit organization working for human rights and against the genocide in the Kurdistan region of Iraq. KWG is working to achieve the goals of: getting international recognition for the crimes perpetrated against the Kurdish people; nationalization of events in Kurdistan to create a human-friendly awareness in the community in order to prevent recurrences; prosecution of criminals in domestic and international courts, including people responsible for planning and implementing genocide and ethnic cleansing and their accomplices; abolition of the death penalty in Kurdistan, Iraq, and the Middle East; working for a country without weapons and violence.

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty is a membership-based global network committed to strengthening the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty. Established in 2002, its ultimate objective is to obtain the universal abolition of the death penalty. To achieve its goal, the World Coalition advocates for a definitive end to death sentences and executions in those countries where the death penalty is in force. In some countries, it is seeking to obtain a reduction in the use of capital punishment as a first step towards abolition.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report responds to a call for inputs to assist the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in preparing the Secretary-General's report on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty for the 81st Session of the UN General Assembly, following up on resolution 79/179 calling for a global moratorium on the death penalty, adopted on 17 December 2024. The report incorporates responses to an April 2026 survey of members of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, focusing on developments since 17 December 2024. This report focuses on transparency and availability of data relating to death penalty practices.

2. ACAT Liberia, a member of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty and the International Federation of Actions by Christians Against Torture (FIACAT), reports that Liberia's death penalty practices are characterized by low transparency, observing that "the lack of comprehensive, disaggregated, and officially published data continues to hinder full monitoring, accountability, and human rights assessment." Rescue Alternatives Liberia similarly reports that authorities do not make official data available to the public.

3. A World Coalition member in Pakistan reports that "official and consolidated data on the use of the death penalty in Pakistan remains limited, fragmented, and largely dependent on non-governmental sources, with no comprehensive, regularly updated official dataset publicly available." Justice Project Pakistan and the National Commission for Human Rights issued the most recent nationwide overview in their Death Penalty Statistics Report 2025.[1] Available data show 3,395 people on death row as of 2025, with no executions recorded during the reporting period. The Coalition member reports that "[d]ata on new death sentences, reversals, commutations, pardons, or scheduled executions remains incomplete and not systematically published, with only partial insights available through litigation tracking and NGO reporting." Existing data are partially disaggregated, particularly in databases that NGOs maintain, offering "variables such as gender, age (including juvenile status at the time of offence), mental health status, type of offence, and location of detention." Authorities, however, do not proactively disclose such disaggregated data, thereby "limiting meaningful analysis of patterns such as gender disparities, socioeconomic background or the treatment of vulnerable groups." The absence of official, regularly published, comprehensive, disaggregated data "significantly undermines transparency and accountability. As a result, the true scale and application of the death penalty, including sentencing trends and post-conviction outcomes, cannot be fully or reliably assessed."

4. The Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty has gathered data about death sentences and executions in Taiwan during the relevant period. In 2024, the High Court issued one death sentence and three death sentences (all men) were commuted to life imprisonment. In 2025, district courts issued two death sentences (including one case in which a citizen (lay) judge sat on the panel) and the High Court issued one death sentence. Authorities commuted one death sentence to life imprisonment. All of the people affected in 2025 were men. In 2026, a district court including a citizen judge sentenced one woman to death and the High Court sentenced one man to death. Authorities commuted the death sentence of one man to life imprisonment.

[1] Justice Project Pakistan & National Commission for Human Rights, The Death Penalty in Pakistan 2025, https://www.jpp.org.pk/the-death-penalty-in-pakistan-2025.

Since President Lai Ching-te took office in May 2024, one person under sentence of death has submitted a pardon petition (in May 2025), but he has received no response.

5. TAEDP expresses an additional concern regarding transparency in Taiwan. Authorities announce executions only on the day they occur. As a result, people on death row as well as their families and lawyers are in the dark about what the future may bring and how to prepare.

6. Prisoners' Future Foundation reports that all ten people remaining under sentence of death in Zambia are male. It does not have further disaggregated data.

7. On 13 March 2026, the World Coalition and 12 of its members submitted a joint response to the call for inputs for the Secretary-General's report on the question of the death penalty focusing on general developments since 1 July 2024 as well as issues related to transparency and availability of data relating to death penalty practices.[2] The response provides insights from Coalition members in Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Liberia, the Maldives, Nigeria, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, and the USA concerning data and transparency.[3] In the USA, for example, "[i]n 2025, states adopted new laws . . . increasing secrecy."[4]

[2] The Advocates for Human Rights et al., *Response to the Call for Inputs for the Secretary-General's report on the question of the death penalty: General developments since 1 July 2024*, 13 March 2026, https://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/Res/UNSG%20Call%20for%20Input%20DP%20general.pdf.
[3] *Id.* ¶¶ 16, 18-26.
[4] *Id.* ¶ 16.