



Parliamentarians *for Global Action*
Parlamentarios para la Acción Global
Action Mondiale des Parlementaires
برلمانيون من أجل التحرك العالمي

Parliamentary Roundtable on the Rule of Law, with a special focus on the abolition of the death penalty

*Senate of the Kingdom of Jordan, Amman,
6 November 2017*

Action Plan

Recalling the applicable international human rights standards and instruments that guarantee the right to life and protect the human dignity of death row inmates, as well as the General Assembly of the United Nations' resolution on the moratorium on the use of the death penalty,

Considering how the death penalty is currently used in Jordan and in the region, despite the lack of evidence of its deterrent effect, particularly with regards to terrorist offences,

Acknowledging the crucial role that legislators hold to promote the abolition of the death penalty, to reduce and restrict its use and to further the development of the Rule of Law through legislative initiatives and by leading public opinion,

Recalling the leadership assumed by Jordan in the region on human rights issues and the moratorium on executions it formerly applied,

We, the participants of the Parliamentary Roundtable on the Rule of Law, commit to:

1. Urge our Government and all bodies that exercise clemency powers to commute death sentences;
2. Demand from our Government that no execution be carried out in secret and in disregard of human dignity, that an adequate notice be given to the family of the accused before execution, and that statistics on executions are strictly kept and made public;
3. Ensure that our criminal justice system fully respects the Convention on the Rights of Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discriminations Against Women (CEDAW), as well as all applicable or emerging standards on fighting violence against women;
4. Make clear, whenever the opportunity arises, that under international law the death penalty should only be applied to “the most serious crimes”;
5. Keep the abolition of the death penalty at the forefront of legislative discussions, and especially when discussing matters of criminal justice and criminal procedure, so as to ensure that the capital punishment should only be used as the outcome of a fair and transparent trial;
6. Call on the Government to order a study on the death penalty in our country and, *inter alia*, the fairness of how it is applied, its alleged deterrent effect, including on terrorism-related offences, and its compliance with international human rights standards and societal and religious values;

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7. Create a multi-partisan group of parliamentarians dedicated to further the abolitionist cause, through engagement with other stakeholders including families affected by the death penalty (both the relatives of victims and of accused), civil society representatives, such as PGA, and community leaders;
 8. Continue to inform our constituents and others about the death penalty and its related issues, in order to grow a consensus in favour of its abolition, including through public statements;
 9. Join our efforts in Parliament and with our Government to move towards a new moratorium on executions and ultimately abolition altogether of the capital punishment; *and*
 10. Urge our Government to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR-OP2) aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.