**UN Committee Against Torture**



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65th Session (12 November 2018 – 07 December 2018)

**TURKEY**

In view of the 65th Session of the Committee Against Torture, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP), would like to communicate several points concerning the situation of the death penalty in Turkey for the consideration of the List of Issues Prior to Reporting.

**Death penalty**

1. Turkey abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes in 2002 and for all crimes in 2004. Turkey also ratified Protocol No. 6 to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms concerning the abolition of the death penalty in December 2003 and Protocol No. 13 to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms concerning the abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances in February 2006, as well as the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming to abolish the death penalty in March 2006.

2. After the failed coup in July 2016, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has repeatedly indicated his intention to restore the death penalty. In October 2016, he announced that the government would submit a draft law to the Turkish parliament. End of July 2018, after a string of cases in which missing children were found dead has reignited calls to reinstate the death penalty in Turkey. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the leader of his far-right junior coalition partner, Devlet Bahceli, have agreed to a proposal that could see the death penalty restored for terrorism offences and the murder of women and children.

3. The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty asks:

- what steps have been taken in that direction?

- that Turkey respects its international commitment not to reintroduce the death penalty.

*The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP) gathers over 150 members: human rights organizations, professional associations and local authorities on the five continents who have united to campaign for the universal abolition of the death penalty. It was founded in 2002 in Rome. Its actions include the World Day Against the Death Penalty, a ratification campaign of the United Nations Protocol aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and a campaign for the implementation of the UNGA moratorium resolution.*