



Resolution on the use of the death penalty

*Adopted by the General Assembly, 9-11 November 2006,
Vilnius, Lithuania*

The General Assembly of the European Youth Forum condemns the decision of the Supreme Iraqi Criminal Tribunal (SICT) to impose the death sentence on Saddam Hussein and two of his co-defendants.

The General Assembly of the European Youth Forum reaffirms, while acknowledging the gravity of the crimes committed by Saddam Hussein and the vicious dictatorship he led, that the death penalty is never an acceptable sentence and that the opportunity should be seized to show that every human life is priceless – real democracies have the necessary means to contribute to make the world a better place in which there is no place for any form of violence.

The General Assembly of the European Youth Forum raises its utmost concern on the fact that the use of the death penalty for children and young people still exists in some states. Youth organisations can in no way comprehend such killing of minors which are in conflict with the UN Convention on the Rights of Child.

The General Assembly the European Youth demands the universal abolition of the death penalty. In this respect, the General Assembly calls on states and international organisations to act so that:

- states regularly and openly publish information on death sentences, detention conditions and executions.
- states ratify all abolitionist treaties and conventions on an international and regional level.
- states abolish the death penalty even in exceptional cases such as murder with aggravated circumstances, war crimes or high treason
- states which have stopped executing those sentenced to death, remove the death penalty from their statute books.
- no states having abolished or suspended executions extradite anyone to third countries which still apply the death penalty

Emphasising the inhumane, unnecessary and irreversible character of capital punishment, no matter how cruel the crime committed, *the General Assembly calls on:*

- all member states of the Council of Europe to ratify Protocol 13 abolition in all circumstances to the European Convention on Human Rights.
- the European Union to continue its efforts to achieve the abolition of the death penalty and this, in the ordinary course of its international relations.
- the USA and Somalia to sign and ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, forbidding capital punishment for juveniles

The General Assembly demands the immediate halt of all executions of those sentenced to death and the universal abolition of the death penalty. Lastly, it calls upon every state to take all possible steps towards the adoption by the United Nations of a worldwide moratorium on executions, pending universal abolition.

At a time when “buts” and “however” are often uttered, there is greater need than ever to stand up against the death penalty.