



**Suriname's Compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights:  
The Death Penalty**

**Submitted by The Advocates for Human Rights**

a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1996  
and

**The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty**

for the 141 Session of the Human Rights Committee  
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**The Advocates for Human Rights** (The Advocates) is a volunteer-based nongovernmental organization committed to the impartial promotion and protection of international human rights standards and the rule of law. Established 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 publications. 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.

**The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP)**, an alliance of more than 150 NGOs, bar associations, local authorities, and unions, was created in Rome on 13 May 2002. The aim of the World Coalition is to strengthen the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty. 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.

1. Suriname abolished the death penalty in the Penal Code in 2015 and in the Military Penal Code in August 2021.<sup>1</sup>
2. Suriname has not yet ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (OP2), aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

### **Suriname should ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR**

3. In Suriname's most recent State Party Report, Suriname states that steps toward the ratification of OP2 can be considered due to the progress made in amending the Military Penal Code to abolish the death penalty.<sup>2</sup>
4. The Committee, in its 2023 List of Issues, requested further information on measures Suriname had taken to ratify OP2.<sup>3</sup>
5. During the interactive dialogue for Suriname's third Universal Periodic Review, Member States commended Suriname for taking the steps toward the total abolition of the death penalty and took note of the efforts Suriname has made to ratify OP2.<sup>4</sup> Suriname received 9 recommendations to ratify or accede to, or to consider ratifying or acceding to, OP2.<sup>5</sup>
6. As part of the UPR interactive dialogue, the delegation of Suriname reiterated that it would take further steps to ratify OP2.<sup>6</sup>
7. Suriname noted the recommendations and stated that further steps have been taken towards ratification of OP2, such as the abolition of the death penalty in the Penal Code (2015) and the Military Penal Code (2021).<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Human Rights Committee, *Fourth periodic report submitted by Suriname under article 40 of the Covenant, due in 2020*, (Dec. 5, 2022), U.N. Doc. CCPR/C/SUR/4. ¶ 58.

<sup>2</sup> Human Rights Committee, *Fourth periodic report submitted by Suriname under article 40 of the Covenant, due in 2020*, (Dec. 5, 2022), U.N. Doc. CCPR/C/SUR/4. ¶ 58.

<sup>3</sup> Human Rights Committee, *List of issues in relation to the fourth periodic report of Suriname*, (Dec. 17, 2021), U.N. Doc. CCPR/C/SUR/Q/4. ¶ 2.

<sup>4</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review* (Dec 17, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/46/9.

<sup>5</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review* (Dec 17, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/46/9. ¶ 97.5 Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Costa Rica) (Armenia) (Australia) (Iceland) (Mexico) (Portugal) (Finland) (France); ¶ 97.6 Consider the possibility of acceding to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Argentina); ¶ 97.25 Step up efforts to abolish the death penalty through the revision of the Military Penal Code and consolidate this commitment through the prompt ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Uruguay); ¶ 97.26 Continue its efforts towards the complete abolition of the death penalty, with the abolition of the death penalty in its Military Penal Code (Fiji); ¶ 97.27 Abolish the use of death penalty and as a first step immediately establish an official moratorium on executions (Finland); ¶ 97.28 Fully abolish the death penalty (Iceland); ¶ 97.29 Advance in the abolition of the death penalty in the Military Penal Code (Mexico); ¶ 97.30 Abolish the death penalty (Portugal); ¶ 98.1 Increase efforts to ratify the main international human rights instruments, especially the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Italy).

<sup>6</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review* (Dec 17, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/46/9. ¶45.

<sup>7</sup> Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, Suriname, Addendum* (Feb. 22, 2022), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/46/6/Add. 1, at 2-3 (responding to recommendation 98.1).

**8. Suggested recommendation:**

- **Take all necessary steps to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, without reservations.**