Haiti
Joint Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review:
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 54th Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
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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.

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1. Haiti abolished the death penalty 23 August 1985. Haiti has ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights but has not made any progress toward the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR. Article 20 of Haiti's Constitution, adopted on 29 March 1987, provides that the death penalty is abolished in all cases.[1] Haiti carried out its last reported execution in 1972.[2]

Scope of international obligations; Acceptance of international norms; Death penalty

Status of Implementation: Accepted, Not implemented

2. In its third-cycle Universal Periodic Review in 2022, Haiti received nine recommendations to ratify or accede to OP2.[3] In May 2022, after consulting with civil society in a workshop and with ministers by email, Haitian authorities accepted all nine recommendations. Nonetheless, Haiti has not yet ratified OP2.
3. During the World Congress Against the Death Penalty 30 June – 2 July 2026, Haiti's Ombudsperson, Jean Wilner Morin, delivered an address entitled *The Right to Life and the Abolition of the Death Penalty in Haiti: A Commitment to Uphold*.[4] After describing Haiti's history of abolishing the death penalty, he described the recent challenges Haiti has been facing.[5] He emphasized that respect for the right to life is an essential condition for consolidating democracy and restoring trust in public institutions.[6]
4. In Haiti's most recent constructive dialogue with the Human Rights Committee in July 2025, the Haitian delegation stated that because Haiti's Constitution outlaws the death penalty, "there was no need to fear its reinstation. The ratification of the Second Optional Protocol could be discussed when the legislature was functional."[7]
5. Haiti has consistently voted in favor of the UN General Assembly resolution calling for a global moratorium on the death penalty, including most recently in December 2024.
6. **Suggested recommendation**:
    - **Take all necessary steps to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, without reservations**.

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[1] *"The abolition of the death penalty in Haiti: a commitment to be preserved" dixit lawyer Jean Wilner Morin*, Haiti Libre, 6 July 2026, https://www.haitilibre.com/en/news-47926-the-abolition-of-the-death-penalty-in-haitia-commitment-to-be-preserved-dixit-lawyer-jean-wilner-morin.html.
[2] World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, *Ratification Kit: Haiti*, Oct. 2020, at 1, https://worldcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Haiti-EN-1.pdf.
[3] Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Haiti*, (30 Mar. 2022), UN Doc. A/HRC/50/15, ¶ 131.1-.6, .14, .15, .20; Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Haiti: Addendum*, (6 May 2022), UN Doc. A/HRC/50/15/Add.1, ¶ 5.
[4] Haiti Libre, *supra* note 1.
[5] Ibid.
[6] Ibid.
[7] UN Office at Geneva, *In Dialogue with Haiti, Experts of the Human Rights Committee Welcome Efforts to Establish a New Constitution, Raise Questions on Measures to Combat Gang-Related Gender-Based Violence and Lynchings*, 4 July 2025, https://www.ungeneva.org/en/news-media/meeting-summary/2025/07/dialogue-haiti-experts-human-rights-committee-welcome-efforts.