



**For Immediate Release:**

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**The Advocates in Geneva, Switzerland for United Nations review of Morocco and India**  
*Reports focus on violence against women and the death penalty in Morocco and treatment of minority groups in India*

Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN (May 23, 2012) – The Advocates for Human Rights is attending the United Nations Human Rights Council’s (UNHRC) review of Morocco and India this week in Geneva, Switzerland. Working with partners in both countries, The Advocates recently submitted reports to the Human Rights Council on violence against women and the death penalty in Morocco and on treatment of minority groups in India.

In a submission made jointly with Global Rights and an alliance of Moroccan civil society organizations, The Advocates described the failure of Morocco’s government to adequately prevent domestic violence, protect victims, and hold perpetrators accountable as required under its international treaty obligations. “The tragic death of Amina Filali has focused the world on Morocco’s failure to prevent violence against women,” said Robin Phillips, The Advocates’ Executive Director. “The Advocates is proud to be working with Global Rights and the brave human rights defenders in our partner organizations to improve human rights conditions for women in Morocco.”

The Advocates’ second report on Morocco focused on the death penalty and the living conditions of death row inmates. Despite not carrying out a death sentence since 1993, the Moroccan government continues to impose death sentences every year. The harsh living conditions and treatment of the inmates violate international treaties. The report was made in collaboration with the World Coalition against the Death Penalty.

The Advocates submitted its report on India in collaboration with the Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC) and the Jamia Teachers Solidarity Association. The report expressed concern over the country’s failure to protect members of minority groups, especially of the Indian Muslim and Christian populations.

The Advocates’ Deputy Director Jennifer Prestholdt and staff attorney Amy Bergquist attended the UN Human Rights Council’s review of Morocco on May 22 and will attend the review of India on May 24. Follow The Advocates’ reporting from Geneva on Facebook and Twitter @The\_Advocates. Proceedings of the UN Human Rights Council can be followed via webcast at: <http://www.un.org/webcast/unhrc/index.asp>.

*The Advocates for Human Rights is a volunteer-based nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion and protection of internationally recognized human rights. The Advocates accomplishes its mission by involving volunteers in research, education and advocacy and building broad-based constituencies in the United States and selected global communities. The Advocates for Human Rights holds Special Consultative Status with the United Nations. For more information: [theadvocatesforhumanrights.org](http://theadvocatesforhumanrights.org).*