



WASHINGTON, D.C., 12 OCTOBER 2021 – Jubilee Campaign submits two letters on #WorldDayAgainsttheDeathPenalty addressing countries with serious violations of freedom of religion or belief and freedom of expression.

NORTH KOREA



Jubilee Campaign Signs Joint Letter to UN Member States

WASHINGTON DC 10 October 2021 Jubilee Campaign joins letter to UN Member States calling on them to take action on North Korea's human rights violations.

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On 10 October, Jubilee Campaign submitted a letter - signed by 40 human rights organizations - urging the United Nations Human Rights Council members and observer states to not become apathetic to the Kim family regime's brutal rule of North Korea since 1948.

The letter describes the regime's human rights violations, including its attempts to control individuals' thoughts through its legislative, and punitive measures to stifle the fundamental freedoms of religion or belief and expression.

It also notes the North Korean government's complicity in grave human rights violations such as extrajudicial killing, torture, slavery, persecution, and sexual and gender-based violence including rape, sex trafficking, forced abortions and infanticide.

The letter urges concerned governments to adopt a *"two-track approach of accountability and engagement with the DPRK."* We also note in the letter that *"simply focusing on matters of either security or the platitudes of political dialogue are not sufficient."*

The letter calls on the UN Security Council to:

- **Resume regular meetings on the situation of human rights in the DPRK** as part of its official agenda.
- **Keep the human rights situation in the DPRK regularly on the agenda.**

Finally, the letter chastised the Human Rights Council for not doing so in the past three years - noting that this sent the wrong message to Pyongyang - emboldening the North Korean regime to continue to commit grave violations against the North Korean people with impunity.

- **Ensure that the Council meetings on North Korea's human rights situation also focus on accountability** and the possibility of the Council referring North Korea to the International Criminal Court.

LETTER CALLING OUT THE ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION FOR MAINTAINING THE DEATH PENALTY FOR APOSTASY AND BLASPHEMY IN OVER 10 MEMBER STATES



Letter to Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC)...

WASHINGTON, D.C., 11 OCTOBER 2021 - Leading up to the World Day Against Death Penalty, Jubilee Campaign together with 12 other organizations called on the 13 countries who have death penalty provisions for the non-violent conduct of apostasy...

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13 diverse religious and non-religious groups appealed to the Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation [OIC] in a letter that notes that, regrettably, all of the countries that provide for the death penalty for the non-violent

conduct of apostasy and/or blasphemy are members of the OIC. These states include Afghanistan, Brunei, Iran, Maldives, Mauritania, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen, as well as certain states in Nigeria and Malaysia.

The letter urges the Secretary General to call on OIC member states to uphold their human rights standards - to walk the talk - in regards to the statements they have committed to, by repealing the death penalty for apostasy and blasphemy. The letter explains that, “*While OIC states have condemned the actions of ISIS and have called on the Taliban to protect the ‘right to life and security [...] in accordance with human rights treaties’, over ten of these states have penal codes [...] which indirectly support the ideology and actions of the terrorist groups the OIC has publicly committed to combat.*”

The letter comes just as Monash University Law released a comprehensive report, *Killing in the name of God*, which documents the legal structures in the countries which still have provisions of the death penalty for apostasy or blasphemy. The report critically describes and examines “state-sanctioned killings on the basis of religious offending and religious identity” in the 12 countries that retain the death penalty for offenses against religion. The Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief summarized the report as a “scathing indictment of overreach of criminal law, where State power is wielded to kill individuals for offending religious doctrines.”

[Download the Full Letter](#)

Jubilee Campaign is a non-profit organization which promotes the human rights and religious liberty of ethnic and religious minorities in the most oppressive countries. We assist individuals seeking asylum from religious persecution as well as promote the care and well-being of larger groups of refugees fleeing religious and ethnic persecution.

Media Contacts:

Hulda Fahmi

Communications Associate

1-703-503-2260

huldafahmi@jubileecampaign.org

Sydney Kochan

*Government Relations and Special
Projects Coordinator*

1-703-503-2260

sydneykochan@jubileecampaign.org

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