

The Struggle against the Death Penalty: Achievements and Setbacks

**Side event to the 60th session of the
UN-Commission on Human Rights**

Most civilized nations consider the death penalty as a violation of one of the most fundamental rights of any individual: the human right to life. Consequently, over half of the countries worldwide have by now abolished the death penalty in law or in practice. Still, many governments retain and use capital punishment despite international agreements to abolish the death penalty and growing internal debates. The panel discussion will give opportunity to an exchange of views of high-level representatives from countries and regions that have recently abolished the death penalty and to confront these with the situation in countries whose legal practice still builds on capital punishment.

**Thursday, 15 April
Palais des Nations, Room XXI (Door 40)
1:00 – 3:00 PM**

Welcome:

- **Erfried Adam**, Director Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), Geneva

Moderation:

- **Eric Sottas**, World Organization Against Torture (OMCT), Geneva

Keynote Address:

- **Claudia Roth**, MP, Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid at the Federal Foreign Office, Germany

Panellists:

- **Ahmet Altan**, Author, Turkey
- **Jaturong Boonyarattanasoontorn**, President Union for Civil Liberty (UCL), Thailand
- **Jotaka L. Eaddy**, Domestic Program Coordinator, National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (NCADP), USA
- **Elisabetta Zamparutti**, Hands Off Cain, Italy

- Sandwiches and light refreshments will be provided -