

Handläggare
Christian Dahlmann

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Kommunstyrelsen

Förfrågan till kommunen att ingå i ett globalt nätverk mot dödstraff, ”Cities against the death penalty”

Förslag till beslut

Kommunstyrelsen föreslås besluta

att Uppsala kommun avstår från deltagande i nätverket ”Cities against the death penalty”.

Ärendet

Förfrågan har inkommit till Uppsala kommun från Sant’Egidio, en kyrklig sammanslutning i Rom, om kommunen vill delta i nätverket ”Cities against the death penalty” som verkar för ett avskaffande av dödsstraffet runt om i världen. Se **bilaga**

En liknande förfrågan inkom under hösten 2009. Förutom att ingå i nätverket innehöll denna förfrågan ett erbjudande om att ingå i en gemensam manifestation mot dödsstraffet genom att belysa ett monument eller byggnad. Uppsala kommun tackade nej till denna förfrågan men bad nätverket återkomma under 2010 eftersom en manifestation mot dödsstraffet då kunde vara en del av Allt ljus på Uppsala.

Den förfrågan som nu inkommit innehåller enbart en inbjudan att ingå i nätverket mot dödsstraff. Den gemensamma manifestationen mot dödsstraffet genom att belysa ett monument eller en byggnad har utgått. Därmed har möjligheten att göra något kring detta under Allt ljus på Uppsala försvunnit.

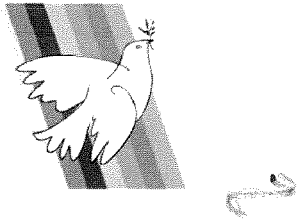
Kommunen ska begränsa verksamheten till frågor som tydligare ligger inom det som prioriteras i våra styrdokument.

Av det sagda följer att kommunen inte bör ingå i nätverket "Cities against the death penalty".

Kommunledningskontoret

Kenneth Holmstedt
Stadsdirektör

Community of
SANT'EGIDIO



City of
ROMA

For the attention of Mayor

**RE: WORLD MOVEMENT OF CITIES FOR LIFE – CITIES AGAINST THE
DEATH PENALTY: INVITATION AND PARTIPATION**

Rome, September 19 2010

Dear Mayor,

On December 18, 2007 the United Nations General Assembly approved a historic resolution calling for a Universal Moratorium on capital punishment. A turning-point in world juridical thinking and tendency. For the first time, an overwhelming majority of member states solemnly agreed that the death penalty and the road to its final abolition are relevant issues for the expansion of universal respect for human rights and not just a technical question of internal justice for individual countries. That resolution was strengthened the following year by an even bigger majority (106-46, with 34 abstentions) and by the U.N. Secretary General's first report on the use of the death penalty in the world.

It was an important step towards a new awareness in the world, comparable to events in past centuries regarding slavery and torture: once considered normal and indispensable for human development, today they are viewed a unacceptable violations of human dignity. The same is happening with the death penalty. In the mid-seventies, just a little over 20 countries had abolished capital punishment.

Now there are 141 countries that do not use it, either by law (103) or on a de facto basis even though it remains on the books.

The rapid acceleration in the last ten years are impressive and coincide with a renewed role of civil society in conjunction with governments and international organizations. In this context cities have acquired a new and growingly important role in a world in which, for the first time, more than half the population is urbanized. It should however be stressed that, even though capital punishment is widely perceived as a remnant of the past, the road to abolition of the death penalty requires more widespread support from the public and an increasing commitment on the part of civil society.

Thus the Community of Sant'Egidio (www.santegidio.or) created the World Day of Cities for Life-Cities against the Death Penalty, commemorated every year on November 30, anniversary of the first official abolition of the death penalty, which took place in the Grand Duchy of Tuscany in 1786. In every city human rights movements and organizations promote the cause of abolition together with the Community of Sant'Egidio and local municipal administrations. It has become one of two major annual events of mobilization for the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, which includes 110 international organizations, from Amnesty International to Ensemble Contre la Peine de Morte, from Penal Reform International to the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (U.S.).

Cities take centre stage around that date and local governments, citizens and influential figures organize public assemblies, concerts and media events that involve the population and create an international mobilization network. Together with October 10, it represents the largest annual worldwide mobilization against the death penalty. Since 2002 over 1,000 cities have joined, more that fifty world capitals and many cities in countries which still apply the death penalty: an important occasion for raising awareness and involving institutions in the quest for a judicial system that respects life.

In each city, the administration "donates" its most important monument, the identifying "logo", as the symbol and heart of a cause that involves the population for the rest of the year. The international symbol of the Cities Movement is the Coliseum of Rome, transformed from a symbol of violence into a symbol for a system of justice devoid of the death penalty: with a special illumination it is the

leader of over 1,000 public squares and monuments that set the stage for a mass civil mobilization and sense of citizenry, especially for the younger generations.

Preparations are currently being made for the ninth edition on November 30, 2010. We need the city you govern and the citizens you represent. Many other cities are already organizing cultural events and awareness-raising initiatives in conjunction with the Community of Sant'Egidio and associated groups in Italy and other countries.

Participation entails choosing a monument or a square to dedicate to the initiative, the designation of a representative who contacts the Organization of the Movement of Cities for life to coordinate initiatives and a commitment to conducting a public information campaign (press conference, statements or messages by City Councils or the Mayor's office on the commemoration day).

The commitment can grow with time. For example, almost all cities make contact with others, using web sites, banners, circulating all local initiatives internationally, spreading news of events, automatically transforming them into international events.

A web site with news of local initiatives in several languages is launched.

Other cities have launched twin city initiatives with other towns, both abolitionist and non-abolitionist, in order to foster a productive "contamination". Others have contributed support to the fund for the legal defence of prisoners sentenced to death launched by the Community of Sant'Egidio, using public subscriptions at concerts or through the media, with the support of mobile telephone operators.

We would be glad to put your city and its citizens in worthy limelight and inclusion in an *honor list* of cities that participate in the battle for civilization by joining the campaign "*Cities for Life – Cities against the Death Penalty*". All "*Cities for life*" will be listed in special page on our web site (www.citiesforlife.net) with links to your city's web sites. It would therefore be very effective if the logo of "*Cities for life*" with a link to the web page of the initiative appeared on your city's home page and however else you deem appropriate.

In that way we would create a sort of "*web community*" through which to spread all the "*Cities for life*" initiatives around the world. Attached you will find a note

on procedures for joining and, in the meantime, we ask that you confirm receipt of this letter as soon as possible. Lastly, we would be grateful if you could suggest other cities that you believe may be interested in the initiative as well as indicate the names of five political, cultural or entertainment figures willing to serve as spokesmen for the initiative.

We take this opportunity to extend our highest regards.

Comunità di
SANT'EGIDIO

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To contact for further information;

Leonardo Tranggono

Comunità di Sant'Egidio - Piazza di S. Egidio 3/A - 00153 Roma, Italia

www.santegidio.org tel +39.06.585661 – fax +39.06.5883625

Email abolition@santegidio.org
info@citiesforlife.net



EUROPEAN UNION

With contribution of

ATTACHMENT

How to join the global campaign of the Community of Sant'Egidio "Cities for Life – Cities against the Death Penalty"

- THE FIRST METHOD OF JOINING IS TO GIVE CONSENT TO ADVERTISE YOUR CITY AS A MEMBER OF THE CITIES FOR LIFE – CITIES AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY, WITHOUT ANY BURDEN, IF NOT A MORAL OBLIGATION TO AGREE WITH THE CONTENTS AND INTENTION OF THE CAMPAIGN.
- FOLLOWING THIS, AND AS A SECOND OPTION FOR CERTAIN CITIES, ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS COULD BE CHOSEN:
- Designate a person, an office, that will become the contact of the Community of Sant'Egidio for all initiatives relating to the Global Campaign, and join, with a resolution of the city council and by means of the individual signatures of the representatives the appeal for a universal moratorium.
- Identify a monument, building or a place of major significance in your city, for the purpose of illumination or decoration from 28 to 30 November 2010. This will become significant also on other occasions connected to the defence of life (eg: a state that abolishes the death penalty, or establishes a moratorium on executions or even commutes a death penalty...).
- Every city has the authority to declare 30 November "Day for life/against the death penalty", and, if it so wishes can place the phrase "City member of "Cities for Life/Cities against the Death Penalty" beneath the name of the city or its symbols and on its website.
- Every city can link the home page of its website by means of a link to the website of the Community of Sant'Egidio (www.santegidio.org) which links up directly with the page of the Global campaign against the Death Penalty, www.santegidio.org/pdm/logo_cities.htm. This page contains the complete list of all the cities that have joined the campaign. Besides, it is appropriate that every city that joins this campaign should endeavour to advertise its support of the campaign in the local press.
- Every city can invite the citizens to sign the appeal for the General Moratorium on executions with a view to the eventual abolition of the death penalty, by means of a communication campaign and a choice of several places, such as public buildings and museums, where it will be possible to sign a copy of the appeal.

- Every city can undertake to give like to a cultural initiative and to raise public awareness (that could be supported and organised in conjunction with the Community of Sant'Egidio and its associates in Italy and other countries) in the prospect of realising the International day on 30 November, or another date which is significant for the defence of human rights in the world, in forms that may vary over time.
- Every city can "adopt" someone who has been condemned to death and who is a prisoner in a method agreed upon with the promotion (publicity of the case, correspondence, public demonstrations...)
- Every city that so wishes can participate in the International Fund for the legal defence of those condemned to death, already created by the Community of Sant'Egidio. Cities are not bound to deposit funds in order to join the campaign. Above all, the contribution, used to guarantee the right to defence also for the most disadvantaged, constitutes an instrument of international justice. Many of the capitals and cities of Europe contributed to the formation of this fund. Contributions must be sent to:

Account no. 807040 ☐
 Comunità di S.Egidio-ACAP Onlus ☐
 IBAN: IT67D0760103200000000807040☐
 SWIFT: BPPIITRRXXX☐
 Reason for payment: Contribution to the
 International Defence Fund for death row inmates.

FOR SUPPORT OF THE CAMPAIGN AND POSSIBLE CLARIFICATION, GO TO:

Leonardo Tranggono
 Email abolition@santegidio.org
info@citiesforlife.net
 Community of Sant'Egidio
 Piazza di S.Egidio 3/A - 00153 Roma - Italia
www.santegidio.org
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