We the undersigned condemn President Trump's call to impose the death penalty for drug offenses. The death penalty for crimes other than murder is likely to violate the US Constitution, and the UN has called for a moratorium on executions with the aim of abolishing the death penalty as a whole.

President Trump's rationale for this policy is premised on falsehoods. The world's two major executors for drug offenses, China as the president cited, and Iran, both have significant drug abuse and trafficking issues. China is a leading source for black market fentanyl and is a major exporter of methamphetamine to the Philippines. Iran has a growing addiction rate from widely available Afghan heroin. Both countries have scaled back their use of the death penalty for drug offenses in recent years, and both have invested significantly in harm reduction programs like syringe exchange and opioid substitution therapy.

The other country President Trump has cited in arguing this position is Singapore. However, the government of Singapore has used essentially faked data to defend its draconian policies to its people and at the UN. Singapore has drug issues like every other country, and in some ways drug use is becoming more open.

The president has similarly ignored the record of countries like Portugal, the Czech Republic or The Netherlands, where drug use is decriminalized and people seeking help with substance-related challenges have access to an extensive set of carefully conceived programs. All three of these countries have drug use rates in line with other EU member states, and all have seen dramatic reductions in HIV-prevalence and drug-induced fatalities.

We regret that President Trump has lightly set aside the recommendations of his Presidential Commission on Opioids, which called for public health approaches like medication assisted treatment and the overdose antidote naloxone. Along with the ghastly specter of executions that the president has conjured, there is a cost in lives already today through the administration's politicization of this issue.

The president's call on the death penalty follows a record of troubling statements he has made promoting violence. At a gathering of police officers in Nassau County, New York, the president suggested that officers should bash suspects' heads on car door frames while arresting them. The remarks drew condemnation from numerous police leaders, departments and organizations representing law enforcement.

During the presidential campaign, then-candidate Trump encouraged attendees at his political rallies to beat up protesters, and expressed his own desire to punch or engage in other violence against protesters, such comments being caught on video on seven different occasions.

On at least two occasions, President Trump praised Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's bloody drug war, in which perhaps 20,000 people have been killed extrajudicially in less than two years. These comments by a US president may have contributed to the initiation of
extrajudicial drug war killings in Indonesia and Bangladesh, or to officials in Malaysia and Turkey calling for similar measures.\textsuperscript{14}

We call on Republicans and Democrats in Congress to clearly repudiate these words by President Trump; and we call on Attorney General Sessions to rescind his directive encouraging prosecutors to follow that lead.\textsuperscript{15} History will judge many of our leaders, not solely the president, should a turn to social barbarism occur during their watch. Congress should also reject the calls made by the President and Attorney General to create new mandatory minimum sentences, but instead press forward with current sentencing reform proposals.\textsuperscript{16}

Congress should repeal the never used US death penalty statutes for drug offenses.\textsuperscript{17} Congress should also pass new legislation to strengthen the connection between US foreign aid and human rights. A first step toward doing so would be to enact a bipartisan bill sponsored by Senators Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Marco Rubio (R-FL), S. 1055, "The Philippines Human Rights Accountability and Counternarcotics Act of 2017."\textsuperscript{18}

– END –

(This list is current as of 7/7/18, and gets updated at https://stopthedrugwar.org/files/trump-death-penalty.pdf. Organizations listed without a country are either US, global, or regional. For further information, contact David Borden at borden@drcnet.org or +1 202-236-8620.)

22 Too Many
A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing)
Acción Semilla Bolivia
Acción Técnica Social (Colombia)
AFEW International
AGRRR (Association Guyanaise de Réduction des Risques) (French Guiana)
Alliance-Philippines (Alliance for Just and Lasting Peace In the Philippines)
Amitiel Welfare Society (Pakistan)
APCASO (Asia-Pacific)
APDES - Agência Piaget para o Desenvolvimento (Portugal)
Asian Network of People Who Use Drugs
Asociación Costarricense para el Estudio e Intervención en Drogas (ACEID) (Costa Rica)
Association for Humane Drug Policy (Norway)
The Association for Safer Drug Policies (Norway)
Assonabis (Spain)
ASUD (Autosupport des Usagers de Drogues) (France)
Bantay Pilipinas-USA
Beckley Foundation (United Kingdom)
Blacks in Law Enforcement of America
Broken No More
Canadian Drug Policy Coalition
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network
Canadian Students for Sensible Drug Policy
Cannabis Sans Frontières (France)
The Center for Community Alternatives (New York)
Center for Law and Justice (New York)
Center for Living and Learning (California)
Center for Optimal Living (New York)
Centro Cáritas de Formación para la Atención de las Farmacodependencias y Situaciones Críticas Asociadas A.C. (CAFAC) (Mexico)
Centro Regional de Derechos Humans y Justicia de Género, Corporación Humanas (Chile)
Chicago Recovery Alliance
Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants (CURE)
Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign (Ireland)
Chicago Recovery Alliance
Coalition Against the Death Penalty (Philippines)
Coalition to Defend Immigrant Rights (CDIR)-Los Angeles
Community Alliance on Prisons – Hawai’i
Community Health Outreach Work (CHOW) Project (Honolulu)
Corporación Humanas Centro Regional de Derechos Humanos y Justicia de Género (Colombia)
Death Penalty Focus
Delhi Network of Positive People (DNP+) (India)
Denver Relief Consulting
Diogenis, Drug Policy Dialogue (Greece)
Drug Policy Alliance
Deutscher Hanfverband (DHV) - German Cannabis Association
Dianova International
Drug Policy Advocacy Group (Myanmar)
Drug Policy Forum of Hawai’i
Drug Policy and Harm Reduction Platform in Malawi
Drug Salvation Foundation (Nigeria)
Drug Users Union MDHG, Amsterdam (The Netherlands)
Echo Park Community Coalition (Los Angeles)
Ecumenical Advocacy Network on the Philippines
Empire State NORML (New York State Chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws)
FAAAAT.net - French Alternatives on Addiction and Toxicomanies (France, Spain)
Families for Sensible Drug Policy (FSDP)
Family Council on Drug Awareness
FedCURE
Federación Andaluza Enlace (Spain)
Fedito Bxl - Drugs & Addictions Brussels
Fields of Green for ALL NPC (South Africa)
Filipino American Human Rights Alliance (FAHRA)
FORCE (Filipino Overseas Rights and Constitutional Equality)
Forum Droghe (Italy)
Free Legal Assistance Group (Philippines)
Fundacja Polityki Społecznej PREKURSOR (Poland)
Global Exchange
Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+)
Golden Gate University School of Law Students for Sensible Drug Policy
GRASP: Grief Recovery After a Substance Passing
Harm Reduction Coalition
Harm Reduction Michigan
Health Poverty Action
Help Not Handcuffs (New Jersey)
Hep Free Hawaii
Hepatitis Education Project
Housing Works
Human Rights and the Drug War
iDEFEND (In Defense of Human Rights and Dignity Movement) (Philippines)
Institute of Inner Balance (Slovenia)
Institute for Policy Studies Drug Policy Project
Integración Social Verter A.C. (Mexico)
Intercambios Puerto Rico
International Center for Ethnobotanical Education Research & Service, ICEERS Foundation
   (Spain, Uruguay)
International Centre for Science in Drug Policy
International CURE
International Drug Policy Consortium
Jewish Social Policy Action Network (JSPAN)
The John Mordant Trust (United Kingdom)
Justice for Filipino American Veterans (JAFV)
Justice Strategies
Just Say No Nepal
La Società della Ragione (Italy)
Latino Commission on AIDS
LatinoJustice PRLDEF
Law Enforcement Action Partnership
Lawyers Collective (India)
Legalizziamo.it
Luca Coscioni Association for Freedom of Scientific Research (Italy)
Mainline (Netherlands)
Malawi Women's Coalition Against Cancer
Marijuana Policy Project
Middle East and North Africa Network of/for People who use Drugs (MENANPUD)
mommieactivist and sons Online Radio
Moms United to End the War on Drugs
Moms Stop The Harm (Canada)
mumsDU -- moms united and mandated to saving the lives of Drug Users (Canada)
National Alliance for Medication Assisted Recovery
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild
National Lawyers Guild, Drug Policy Committee
National Organization for Women
Netherlands Drug Policy Foundation
The Next Movement
NoBox Transitions Foundation Inc. (Philippines)
Normal Norge (Norway)
NORML of Michigan
NVO 4 Life (Montenegro)
Observatorio de Cultivos y Cultivadores Declarados Ilícitos (OCCDI) (Colombia)
Philippine Jesuit Prison Service Foundation, Inc.
Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates (PAHRA)
PNNY Peer Network of New York
Protect Families First (Rhode Island)
Public Justice Center (Maryland)
Quad Cities Harm Reduction (Iowa)
Recovering Nepal, National Federation of People Who Use Drugs and Drug Service Organizations
REDUC - Brazilian Harm Reduction and Human Rights Network
Reentry Central
Release (United Kingdom)
Safe Streets Arts Foundation (District of Columbia)
SAOL Project (Ireland)
SATHI SAMUHA; Community-led Organization of Positive People Who Use Drugs in Nepal
Schildower Kreis (Germany)
Sex Workers and Allies Network (SWAN)
Sonoran Prevention Works (Arizona)
South African Network of People Who Use Drugs
St. Ann's Corner of Harm Reduction, Inc. (Bronx, NY)
StoptheDrugWar.org
Students for Sensible Drug Policy
SURUWAT (Nepal)
TB/HIV Care Association (South Africa)
TNI (Transnational Institute)
Transform Drug Policy Foundation (United Kingdom)
Transitions Clinic Network
Treatment Action Group
UDK Consultancy (Malawi)
UNAD (La Red de Atención a Las Adicciones) (Spain)
UP-Paralegal Volunteers Organisation (Philippines)
Urban Survivors Union (California, North Carolina, Washington State)
William C. Velasquez Institute
WOLA (Washington Office on Latin America)
Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual (WATER)
Women and Harm Reduction International Network (WHRIN)
Women Who Never Give Up
Youth RISE
Zimbabwe Civil Liberties and Drug Network


All the Times Trump Has Called for Violence at His Rallies, MASHABLE DAILY, Mar. 16, 2016 at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wls2L2nUL-0.


17 The primary statute is (18 U.S.C. § 3591(b)), which applies to some drug trafficking offenses. There are other statutes allowing the death penalty for murders committed as part of illegal drug activity, some which may extend liability for a murder to participants who were involved in the drug operation but not the murder itself; FEDERAL LAWS PROVIDING FOR THE DEATH PENALTY, Death Penalty Info. Ctr., https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/federal-laws-providing-death-penalty.