

# DRAW ME THE ABOLITION

MOROCCO: TOWARDS A COUNTRY FREE OF DEATH PENALTY



المجلس الوطني لحقوق الإنسان  
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National Human Rights Council





*“I commend the debate on the death penalty, which is being led by civil society organizations, a large number of parliamentarians and legal experts. I am sure it will help deepen the debate on this question.”*

Message of HM King Mohammed VI to the participants  
in the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Forum on Human Rights,  
held from 27 to 30 November 2014, in Marrakech.

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**Chari Inas**

40\*40cm, acrylic on canvas

## Drawing a wish, expressing an idea, raising hope... an advocacy towards a country free of death penalty

Art often succeeds in simulating imagination and freedoms. It is also an astonishing means to express and to mobilize;

It is not only a tool for inclusion but also a communication channel through a powerful medium that connects individuals, regardless of their culture or social backgrounds. Art is also a remarkable educational tool through which children and youth can express and share their emotions and opinions;

This booklet gives a glimpse on a rich experience full of hope; the experience of children and youth expressing their views and convictions on the right to life, through art.

The idea behind this project is both humble and ambitious, at the very same time: getting children, youth, educators and artists together in a project that concerns our society and the protection of the supreme human right. All along this experience, the project challenged their imagination and critical thinking. They were provided with necessary information, knowledge and tools to critically approach and understand the different aspects related to capital punishment in our society.

The artworks presented in this booklet are your window, as a reader, to this thorough experience; in which participants relied on creativity and art to convey strong meanings: a pupil, in an age of innocence, brushstroking to create a meaningful abstract or conveying art inspirations.

Sincerity and tolerance were appealing art ingredients in this whole project... to create a message that particularly touches our hearts. These drawings might not be technically sophisticated or may look simple to the eye. Yet, and most importantly, they bear and convey strong personal convictions.

Art, says Paulo Coelho, is always an expression of a generation. It is a conversation within one and same generation that ultimately transcends to other generations. The idea behind this project was far from just having artists tutoring participants to create personal artwork. The project rather aimed at helping them have a comprehensive idea on the death penalty and, ultimately, express themselves in this regard as citizens, with an artistic personal touch.

Thoughts and emotions are certainly the core of any artwork. Hence, these artworks should be viewed, with all their particularities and seeming imperfections, as personal expressions of an imagination, of an experience, of thoughts and convictions on the making.

Artistic painting was used in this project to talk about human rights, in the same way a play or a piece of music can be used to mobilize or defend human rights. Art is a powerful medium to educate and promote human rights. As such, it can contribute to strengthening social cohesion and the rule of law.

This experience was an opportunity for peaceful discussions and rational debates to build a consensus; a shared vision for tomorrow; towards a country free of death penalty.

**Amina Bouayach**

Chairperson of the National Human Rights Council



**Bahssin Assiya**  
40\*40cm, acrylic on canvas

## رسم أمنية، التعبير عن فكرة، بلورة أمل... من أجل مغرب بدون إعدام

غالبا ما ينجح الفن في محاكاة الخيال والحرية. كما أنه يشكل وسيلة مذهلة للتعبير والتعبئة؛

فهو ليس أداة للإدماج فقط، بل هو كذلك وسيلة للتواصل من خلال لغة قادرة على ربط الأفراد ببعضهم البعض بغض النظر عن ثقافتهم أو انتمائهم الاجتماعي. وهو أيضا أداة تعليمية مذهلة تتيح للأطفال والشباب إمكانية التعبير عن مشاعرهم وآرائهم؛

يقدم هذا الكتيب تجربة غنية ومفعمة بالأمل تتمثل في ورشات للتعبير الفني حول قضية الحق في الحياة من إبداع أطفال وشباب؛

لقد كانت الفكرة متواضعة وطموحة في آن واحد، قائمة على إشراك الأطفال والشباب والمؤطرين البيداغوجيين والفنانين في مشروع يحمل حسا مدنيا، يسائل مخيالهم وروحهم النقدية ويدعوهم للتساؤل من خلال تزويدهم بالمعلومات والمعارف وسبل التفكير لتوسيع آفاق فهم قضية مجتمعية مثل قضية عقوبة الإعدام؛

هذه الأعمال هي تعبير عن هذه التجربة الغنية والحبلى بالحقائق. حقيقة مُشكّلة من البراءة، لكنها تنهل من الإخلاص والتسامح ومن رسالة موجهة بصفة خاصة إلى قلوبنا، حتى لو كان مظهرها البسيط لا يستبعد قناعة شخصية قوية.

يقول باولو كويلو «الفن هو دائما تعبير عن جيل، عن مشاعر هذا الجيل تجاه معاصريه». لم تكن الفكرة تقتصر على إنجاز عمل شخصي، بتأطير من فنان، ولكن أيضا لصياغة فكرة وطموح حول قضية عقوبة الإعدام والتعبير عنها كمواطن من خلال وضع بصمة شخصية على العمل.

صحيح أن الأفكار والمشاعر تشكل جوهر أي عمل. وبناء على ذلك، ينبغي تقدير هذه الأعمال لذاتها، بما لها من خصوصيات وعيوب وتعثرات كتعابير شخصية عن مخيال، عن تجربة حية للحظة، عن تساؤلات وعن تفكير قيد التشكل.

وهكذا تتم تعبئة الرسم كشكل من أشكال التعبير عن الحقوق، على غرار المسرح والموسيقى. وتشكل هذه التعابير الفنية وسيلة قوية للتثقيف في مجال حقوق الإنسان وداعما قويا للتماسك الاجتماعي ولدولة الحق والقانون.

لقد مكنتنا هذه التجربة من إقامة تبادل سلمي ونقاش هادئ وكذا التوصل إلى توافق كي نتخيل الغد... القريب جدا... مغرب بدون إعدام.

### آمنة بوعيش

رئيسة المجلس الوطني لحقوق الإنسان



The workshop was organized for students at the Higher School of Arts in Casablanca (*Ecole Supérieure des Beaux Arts*). It was an opportunity for youth to express their opinions, ask questions, and unleash their imagination to express themselves and share their thoughts on the death penalty.

Along with the presented artworks, this underlines the constitutional protection of the right to life in Morocco, highlights CNDH's calls for the abolition of the capital punishment, and sheds light on the provisions of international human rights law against the death penalty.



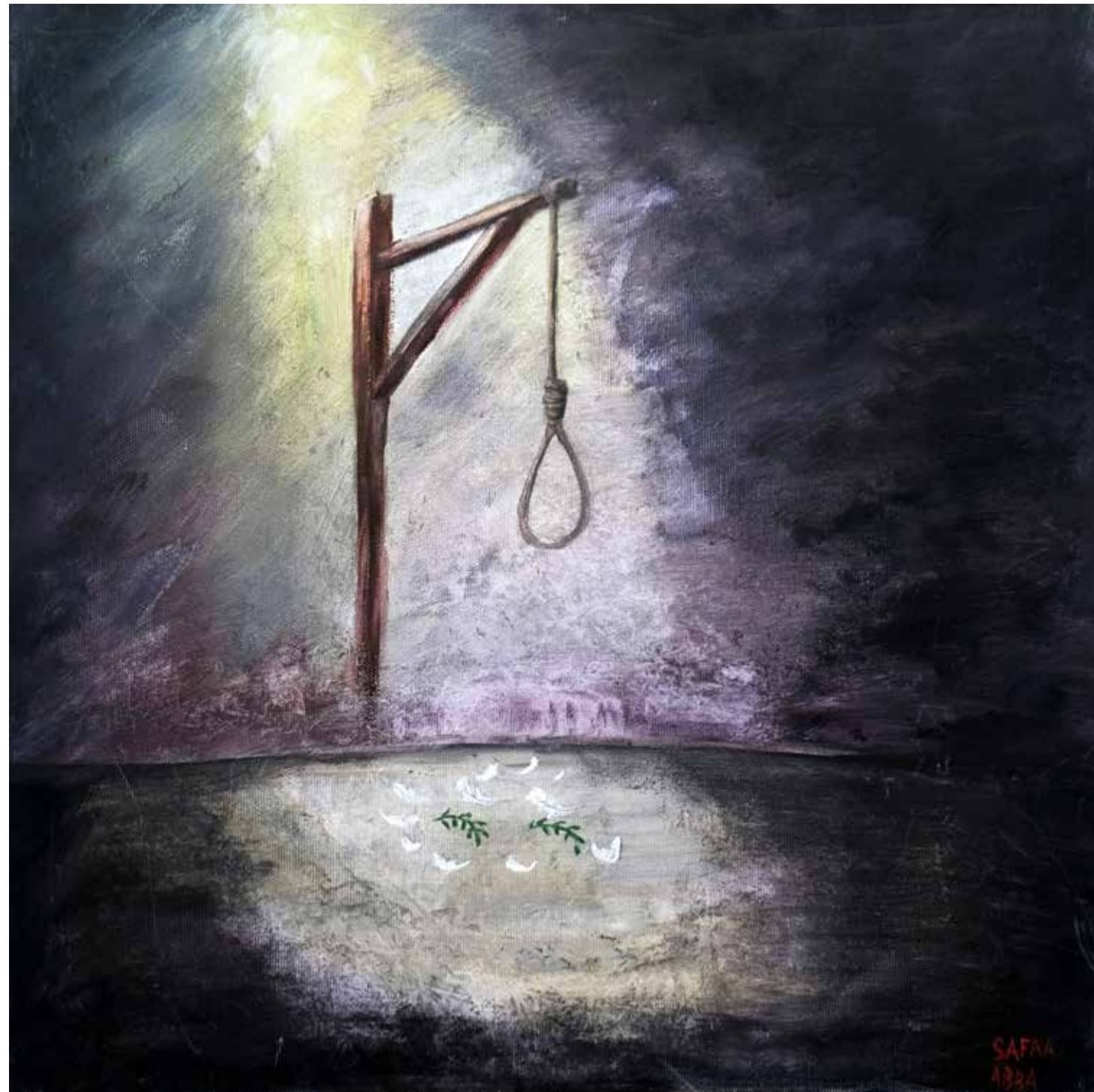


The right to life is the first right of any human being. The law protects this right.

Article 20 of the 2011 Constitution of the Kingdom of Morocco



**Kaghat Mahmoud**  
40\*40cm  
acrylic on canvas



The physical or moral integrity of anyone shall not be infringed, in whatever circumstance that may be, and by any party that may be, public or private.

Article 22 of the 2011 Constitution of the Kingdom of Morocco



**Aba Safae**  
40\*40cm  
acrylic on canvas



“Morocco continues to develop and broaden the scope of democratic reform and to gradually harmonize its entire legal and institutional human rights protection system with the standards of international human rights law (...). Our wish is that the project be finalized and approved by parliament before the end of the current legislative year and that we can, with the support of the King, go further by including the abolition of the death penalty in the Constitution of our country.”

Statement by late Driss Benzekri during the Third World Congress against the Death Penalty, in February 2007, Paris.



**Sakhssoukh Soufiane**

40\*40cm

acrylic on canvas



The National Human Rights Council and the abolitionists are convinced that the death penalty cannot be effective in reducing crimes; the most heinous included.

On the contrary, executions may fuel a deep sense of injustice and increases a thirst for brutality and violence.

Considering that the death penalty is neither dissuasive nor effective and harmful to society, it cannot solve any issues related to crimes, in any way.. The National Human

Rights Council considers that executing a person will not do justice to the families of the victims and will not support society in its fight against violence.

**Statement by Amina Bouayach, Chairperson of the National Human Rights Council, during the 47<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Human Rights Council, held from June 21 to July 13, 2021.**



**Amrani Jamali Aya**

40\*40cm

acrylic on canvas

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Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 3, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, December 1948



**Fadli Chaimae**  
40\*40cm  
acrylic on canvas

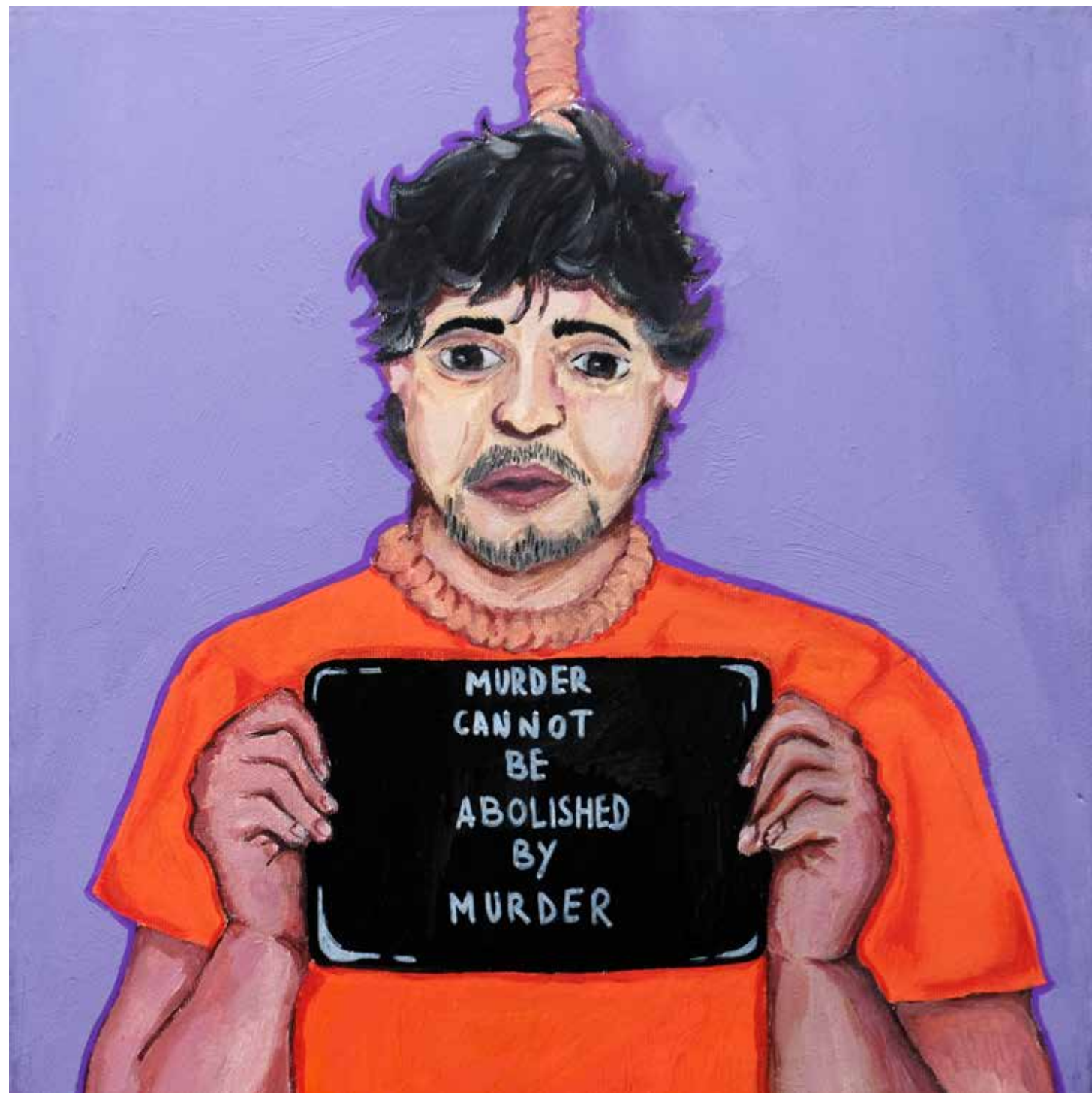
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Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life.

Article 6, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, December 1966



**Zahri Hajar**  
40\*40cm  
acrylic on canvas



“Believing that abolition of the death penalty contributes to enhancement of human dignity and progressive development of human rights;  
Convinced that all measures of abolition of the death penalty should be considered as progress in the enjoyment of the right to life;  
Desirous to undertake hereby an international commitment to abolish the death penalty,”

Introduction of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, December 1989



**Amine Anouar**  
40\*40cm  
acrylic on canvas



Human beings are inviolable.  
Every human being shall be  
entitled to respect for his life and  
the integrity of his person. No  
one may be arbitrarily deprived  
of this right.

African Union, African Charter on Human and  
Peoples' Rights, June 1981



**Kammou Sara**  
40\*40cm  
acrylic on canvas





Everyone has the right to life. No one shall be condemned to the death penalty, or executed.

Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, December 2000



**Amajrih Oumaima**  
40\*40cm  
acrylic on canvas







The death penalty has never been proven to be dissuasive. Several studies confirm that violence is a vicious circle. Indeed, countries that use the death penalty generally have higher crime rates comparing to countries that have abolished the capital punishment.



**Nour Ouaziz**  
65\*50cm  
Natural dye on paper,  
Mixed techniques



The death penalty perpetuates the cycle of violence and suffering. While justice, at its core, aims to remedy. The execution of the death penalty weakens the core concept of justice in its essence.



**Salma Belahssin**  
65\*50cm  
Natural dye on paper,  
Mixed techniques



**Rim Aboukacem**  
65\*50cm, Natural dye on paper,  
Mixed techniques



**Zaynab Amchouf**  
65\*50cm, Natural dye on paper,  
Mixed techniques



**Soundous Rakhiss**  
65\*50cm  
Natural dye on paper,  
Mixed techniques

A judicial error is possible. Innocent people can be executed. There will be no remedy or justice for an innocent person if executed.



**Ziyad Bounaklat**  
65\*50cm  
Natural dye on paper,  
Mixed techniques

The death penalty is a cruel, inhuman and a degrading punishment. It is a punishment that aborts all hopes. In its essence, it is torture.





**Roudayna Ben Zina**  
65\*50cm, Natural dye on paper,  
Mixed techniques



**Aya Fadil**  
65\*50cm, Natural dye on paper,  
Mixed techniques



**Taha Azzouzi**  
65\*50cm  
Natural dye on paper,  
Mixed techniques

Not all families of victims support the death penalty as it does not guarantee remedy or reparation. Several victims and/or their families hope to understand and see, above all, justice being served.

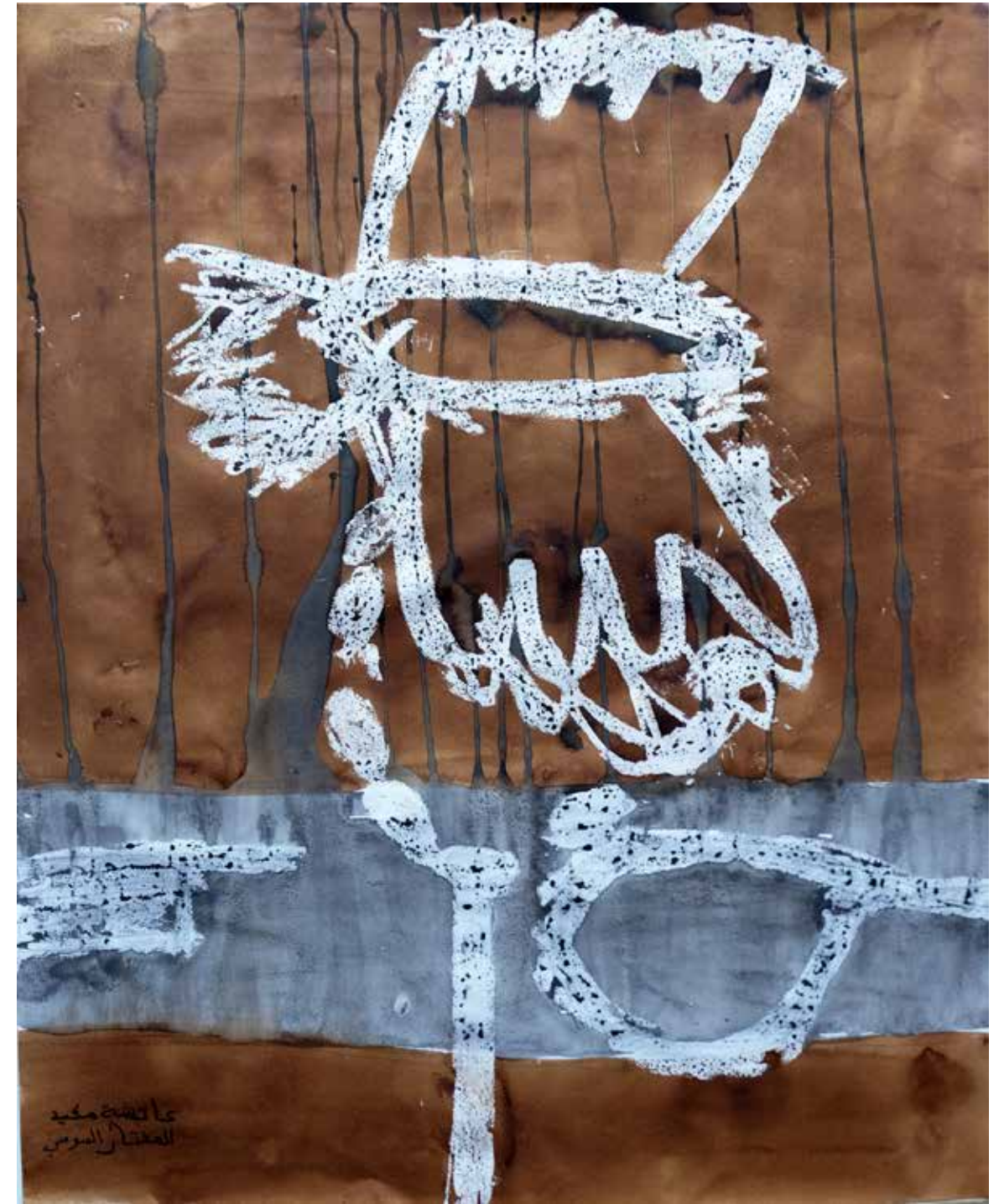
The death penalty impedes every individual's ability to reintegrate.



**Ihssan Khatabi**  
65\*50cm  
Natural dye on paper,  
Mixed techniques



**Hiba Salmi**  
65\*50cm, Natural dye on paper,  
Mixed techniques



**Aicha Moufid**  
65\*50cm, Natural dye on paper,  
Mixed techniques

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There are no social or cultural factors specific to Moroccan society that would justify any particularities regarding the death penalty in Morocco.



**Salma Arab**  
65\*50cm  
Natural dye on paper,  
Mixed techniques

**In 2020: 160 countries abolished** the death penalty **for all crimes, 9 countries abolished** the death penalty for **offences punished by common law crimes**, and **34 countries suspended** the execution of capital punishment, while **49 countries still** use the death penalty.



**Meriem Zitouni**  
65\*50cm,  
walnut powder on paper,  
Mixed techniques



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**In 2019, the majority of the 57 member or observer countries in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), either abolished the death penalty (19) or imposed a de facto moratorium on its execution (14).**



**Fatima Zahra Ibn Ammi**  
65\*50cm  
walnut powder on paper,  
Mixed techniques



**Lina Radi**  
65\*50cm, Natural dye on paper,  
Mixed techniques



**Touria Zrida**  
65\*50cm, Natural dye,  
Mixed techniques







Logo of the Faculty of Science, Assiut University  
الكلية العلمية  
بجامعة أسيوط  
Assiut University  
Faculty of Science

# Institutions participating in the art workshops on “The Right to Life”

## **Regional Department of the Ministry of National Education, Preschool and Sports in Sidi Bernoussi, Casablanca, Morocco**

High School School Ibn El Moataz

High School School Khadija Oum Al Mouminine

High School Ibn Mandour

High School Hassan Ibn Tabit

Lahlou Private School

High School Achahid Idriss Lahrizi

High School Ibn Chahid

High School Mokhtar Soussi

Charif Idrissi Private School

High School Ouallada

## **Regional Department of the Ministry of National Education, Preschool and Sports in Rabat, Morocco**

Saoussan Private School

## **Schools of higher education**

Higher School of Arts of Casablanca

# Participants

## **List of students of the Higher School of Arts in Casablanca**

Fayez Hassan • ElAmin Anouar • Sakhssoukh Soufiane • Machich Yousra • Fadili Chaimae • Aba Safae • Imrani Jamali Aya • Charia Inas • Kammou Sara • Ajdi Abdellah • Droubi Mohamed • Kaghat Mahmoud • Aidan El Mahdi

## **List of students of the Regional Directorate of Sidi Bernoussi, Casablanca**

Meriem Ezzaytouni • Fatima Zahra Ibn Ammi • Hiba Essalmi • Salma Arab • Roudina Ibn Zina • Ihssan ElKhattabi • Soundous Rakhis • Aya Fadil • Zaynab Amachouf • Taha Azouzi • Ziyad Bounaklat • Aicha Moufid • Rim Abou Lkassem • Maroua Kabir • Mustapha Mahmoud • Meriem Bahraoui

## **List of students of the Regional Directorate of Rabat**

Mohamed Amine Keni • Nizar El Kamili • Rayan Bousta • Hiba Essbai • Chaimae Abbar • Lina ELMaghraoui • Jannat Azir • Salma Elhami • Ghita Echakradi • Meryem Ibn Soulayman • Lina Radi • Mohamed Rizk Sabouh • Ilias Hilmi • Mohamed Elmahdi Benis • Salma Ayad • Yasmine Moudnib • Zainab Azim • Ichraq Benyaakoub • Chahd Mekhdar • Salma Belahssin • Chahd Azzouzi • Ghita Lahrichi • Aya Radi • Soumaya Yasmine Benaissa • Doaa Ezzaytouni • Touria Zrida • Khadija Tasnim Ikbal • Alae Kamar • Nour Ouaziz • Bamou Achraf Younes • Adam Belberd

# CNDH Advocacy against the death penalty

The death penalty is a serious violation of a fundamental, supreme and absolute human right: the right to life, without which there is no rights, no freedoms nor justice;

Article 20 of the Moroccan Constitution does not provide for any derogation regarding the right to life. It rather puts on the legislator the constitutional responsibility to protect this right from any violations or crimes.

The CNDH has consistently adopted a clear and firm position regarding the abolition of the death penalty. It obvious in all its recommendations and observations on the draft criminal law submitted to Parliament in October 2019. It's worth mentioning that the government is planning to decrease the crimes punishable by death.

The CNDH also called on the government to vote for Resolution 75-183 related to the Moratorium on the use of the death penalty adopted in December 2020 by the United Nations General Assembly.

In line with its mandate, the Council monitors and protects the rights of those sentenced to death. It follows-up on of their cases before courts, pays them regular visits and supports all those who receive Royal Pardons to help reintegrate back into society.

The Council believes that there is no socio-cultural factor specific to Moroccan society that can justify the use of the death penalty.

The national Human Rights Council refutes all arguments used by some politicians against the abolition of the death penalty, who usually argue that public opinion gives a flat no to the abolition of the death penalty. Which is not true!

The Council contributes to enriching the national dialogue on this issue and provides constant support to NGOs, networks of lawyers, journalists, professors and members of parliaments;

The CNDH plays a leading role within the networks of national human rights institutions and international bodies intending to support the universal abolition of the death penalty;

It is convinced that the death penalty is not effective in reducing crimes; the most hideous crimes included. It rather believes that executions can fuel a deep sense of injustice and a thirst for brutality and violence.

The CNDH considers that executing a person will not do justice to the families of victims and will not support society in its fight against violence.

The abolition of the death penalty is a way to protect a supreme and fundamental human right.



**Ajdi abdellah**

40\*40cm, acrylic painting on cloth

### Special thanks to all those who contributed to this project:

Saadia Waddah, Sabrina El Maalem, Anas Abouabdillah, Belaid Boudris, Abderrahim Jamaï, Abdeslam Chefchaoui, Abdellah Mesdad, Hassan Ismaili, Mohamed Aboulkacem, Said Kihia, Kadmiri Sabiha, Jaidi Said, Abdelkader Hadini, Hamza Hafid, Mouad Sekkat, Lawrence Gillette Dayane, Dominic and Miloud Noika, Mathilde Meyer, Julia Bourbon Fernandez, Nicola Peron.

### In addition to our partners:

Moroccan Coalition against the Death Penalty  
Moroccan Observatory for Prisons,  
All against the Death Penalty,  
Nouiga Gallery,  
Higher School of Arts of Casablanca,  
Regional Department of the Ministry of National Education, Preschool and Sports in Rabat and Casablanca - Sidi Bernoussi.



# DRAW ME THE ABOLITION

## **Morocco: Towards a country free of death penalty**

National Human Rights Council – 2021

Project Coordinator: **Mustapha Najmi**

Project team: **Fadoua Farhat, Amina Amiz**

Art workshops facilitators: **Youssef Saadoun, Narjiss Ejbari**

Artistic design: **Samir Gabli**, CNDH Communications Department

Paintings photographic production: **Miloud Nouiga**





Ongoing process to the effectiveness of rights

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Morocco: Towards a country free of death penalty