



Press statement :

The ALCS welcomes the repeal of the ban on entry and residence in the U.S. for people with HIV and call upon Arab countries who practice a such discriminatory measure for abolition

Casablanca, November 2, 2009

The Moroccan Association against AIDS (ALCS) welcomes the repeal of the ban on entry and residence of HIV positive people in the territory of the United States of America announced last week. This ban, which is not based on any scientific argument, constituted for two decades an injustice and a flagrant violation of the rights of people living with HIV.

However, sixty seven countries around the world, including several Arab states, still continue to practice such discrimination. Thus, countries like Oman, Qatar, Sudan, UAE and Yemen formally prohibit people living with HIV from entering their territory. Other countries require proof of négative HIV status for a stay of some duration: Egypt, Iraq and Tunisia. And expulsions of foreigners after the discovery of their HIV status are still common in Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Soudan, Syria, Yemen and UAE¹.

These measures, in the opinion of all scientists and experts, are useless in term of public health and are harmful to an effective response to the HIV epidemic. They are an affront to the daily life of people living with HIV and their freedom of movement ; preventing them from visiting their relatives, join their husbands and spouses, do leisure, study or business travels, participate to international conferences etc.. They perpetuate the stigma, feed the discrimination suffered by HIV positive people and most often lead to other violations of Human rights (forced testing, breach of confidentiality etc.)

The ALCS calls upon countries, including Arab states, who still practice this kind of discrimination to end the prohibition of entry and residence of people with HIV in their territory and to respect the right to freedom of movement of persons and respect Human rights in general.

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¹ The Global Database on HIV related travel restrictions, www.hivtravel.org