

[1] ABOLITIONIST AND RETENTIONIST COUNTRIES

More than two thirds of the world's countries have abolished the death penalty in law or practiceⁱ.

- **105 countries**ⁱⁱ have abolished the death penalty for all crimes;
- **6 countries**ⁱⁱⁱ have abolished the death penalty for all crimes except extraordinary crimes such as those committed in times of war;
- **30 countries**^{iv} can be considered abolitionist in practice in that they have not executed anyone during the last 10 years and are believed to have a policy or established practice of not carrying out executions.
- Therefore, **141 countries have abolished** the death penalty in law or in practice.
- **57 countries** and territories still uphold the death penalty and use this punishment;
- **25 countries**^v carried out **executions** in 2015;
- In 2015, the top five executioners were **China, Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia**, and the **United States of America**.

[2] PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS WORLD ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

6 countries on all continents abolished the death penalty for all crimes in 2015 and 2016: **Fiji, Guinea, Madagascar, Mongolia, Republic of Congo** and **Suriname**. 169 of the 193 member states of the UN were execution-free in 2015.

In the Americas, for the seventh consecutive year, the USA was the only nation to carry out executions in 2015. However, fewer executions were recorded and fewer states executed.

In Europe, no state carried out executions in 2015.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, 43 executions were recorded in four countries compared to 46 executions in three countries in 2014.

[3] DEATH SENTENCES AND EXECUTIONS

In 2015 at least 1,634 people (excluding China) were executed in **25 countries** and at least 1,998

people were sentenced to death in **61 countries**. These figures only reflect cases of which Amnesty International was aware and the actual number is certainly higher.

[Asia]

Amnesty International has not given any estimates on the number or executions in China. Official national statistics on the application of capital punishment remain a state secret. It is believed that **thousands of executions** took place in 2015. Pakistan executed 326 people in 2015. Indonesia executed 14 people, Taiwan 6 people, Singapore 4 people, Japan 3 people and Amnesty has not given any estimates for Malaysia, North Korea and Viet Nam.

[Middle East]

The number of executions recorded **in the Middle East and North** increased by 26%, from 491 in 2014 to at least 1,196 in 2015.

According to Amnesty International, **Iranian** authorities acknowledged executing at least 400 individuals in 2015. According to Iran Human Rights' annual report, at least 969 people were executed in 2015, with at least **57 public executions**.

Saudi Arabia executed at least 158 in 2015 and almost 100 for the 1st semester of 2016.

In **Iraq**, at least 26 executions were carried, three of which took place in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq for the first time since 2008.

[North America]

In the United States **6 states** carried out executions in 2015, taking the lives of **28 people**.

20 states^{vi} have abolished the death penalty; 31 retain it. Of these, four states^{vii} have a Governor imposed moratorium. The federal authorities have not carried out any executions since 2003 and the military authorities since 1961.

[4] METHODS OF EXECUTION

The following methods have been used:

- **beheading** (Saudi Arabia),
- **hanging** (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan,

Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, South Sudan, Sudan),

- **lethal injection** (China, USA, Viet Nam)
- **shooting** (Chad, China, Indonesia, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, Yemen).

There were no reports of judicial executions carried out by stoning in 2015.

[5] USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY AGAINST JUVENILE OFFENDERS

International human rights treaties and customary international law forbid the use of capital punishment for all those under 18 at the time of the crime of which they are accused. This ban is inscribed in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the American Convention on Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The countries which still uphold capital punishment for some crimes are all party to at least one of these treaties which expressly forbid the execution of juvenile offenders.

However, a small number of countries continue to execute juvenile offenders. At least **5 people were executed in Pakistan** and **4 people** were executed in **Iran** for crimes they allegedly committed when they were under 18 years of age in 2015. Other juvenile offenders were sentenced to death in 2015 in **Bangladesh, Iran, Maldives** and **Pakistan** and others are also believed to be under a death sentence in **Iran, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea** and **Saudi Arabia**.

[6] INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS SUPPORTING ABOLITION

Progress towards abolition has been made through the adoption of international treaties, whereby States pledge not to use capital punishment:

- **Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty and has been ratified by **81** States. 3 other countries have signed the Protocol, thereby signalling their intention to become party to this instrument at a later date;
- **Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights on the abolition of the death penalty**, has been ratified by **13** States on the American continent;
- **Protocol No. 6 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (European Human Rights Convention) on the abolition of the death penalty**, which has been ratified by **46** European States and signed by one other;
- **Protocol No. 13 to the European Human Rights Convention concerning the abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances**, which has been ratified by **44** European States and signed by one other.

The objective of Protocol No. 6 to the European Human Rights Convention is the abolition of the death penalty in **peace time** whereas Protocol No. 13 provides for the **total abolition** of the death penalty in all circumstances.

The two other protocols provide for the **total abolition** of capital punishment but gives States the possibility, if they so wish, to use it exceptionally in times of war.

ⁱ Sources: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/death-penalty>, <http://www.deathpenaltyworldwide.org> and <http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org>

ⁱⁱ Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cabo Verde, Colombia, Congo (Republic of), Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niue, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia (including Kosovo), Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Togo, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, UK, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela.

ⁱⁱⁱ Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Israel, Kazakhstan, Peru.

^{iv} Algeria, Benin, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Eritrea, Ghana, Grenada, Kenya, Laos, Liberia, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Myanmar, Niger, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Tonga, Tunisia, Zambia.

^v Afghanistan (1), Bangladesh (4), Chad (10), China (+), Egypt (22+), Iran (977+), India (1), Indonesia (14), Iraq (26+), Japan (3), Jordan (2), Malaysia (+), North Korea (+), Oman (2), Pakistan (326), Saudi Arabia (158+), Singapore (4), Somalia (25+), South Sudan (5+), Sudan (3+), Taiwan (6), UAE (1), USA (28), Viet Nam (+) and Yemen (8+).

^{vi} Alaska, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska (in May 2015, Nebraska voted to abolish the death penalty. The status of the 10 inmates on death row is uncertain at this time. A petition has been submitted to suspend the repeal and put it to a voter referendum), New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin.

^{vii} Colorado, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington.