

10.10 is World Day

Abolish the death penalty.
It's a better world without it.



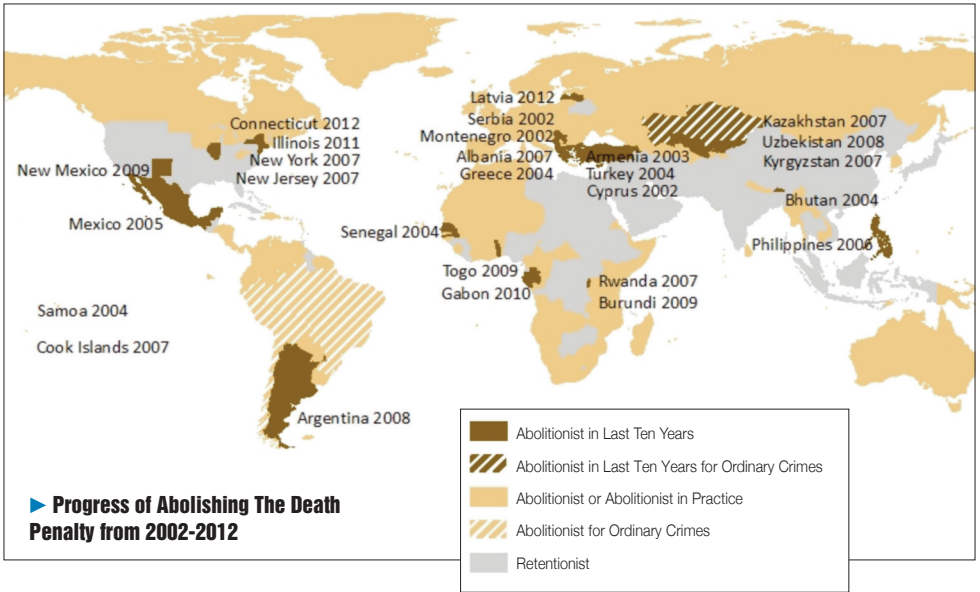
2002-2012 10 Years of World Coalition
against the Death Penalty

OCTOBER 10TH
2012

WORLD DAY
AGAINST THE
DEATH PENALTY

WORLD
COALITION
AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

www.worldcoalition.org



Significant progress to end the death penalty has been made over the past 10 years. Global momentum continues to build toward complete abolition, and many countries retaining the death penalty have either effectively abolished it in practice or restricted its use to only certain crimes or certain categories of individuals.

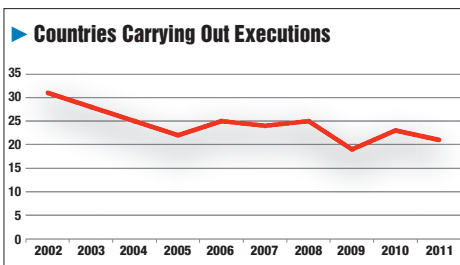
However, work remains to be done to end the death penalty. The overall trend suggests that worldwide use of the death penalty is in decline, but the countries that continue to carry out the death penalty do so at an alarming rate.



The Worldwide Trend towards Abolition: Progress of the Past 10 Years

The last decade has seen a large increase in countries that have officially abolished the death penalty or eliminated the use of the death penalty in practice:

- 141 countries are abolitionist in law or in practice;
- 97 countries have abolished the death penalty for all crimes;
- 36 countries have abolished the death penalty in practice;
- 8 countries have abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes.



These figures are based on Amnesty International's data for 198 countries, which include Taiwan, Palestinian Authority, South Sudan, Cook Islands, and Niue.



Retentionist and Abolitionist Countries Trend

According to Amnesty International, 21 countries recorded executions in 2011, compared to 31 countries 10 years ago.

Even the USA, one of the worst offenders in the use of the death penalty, has shown progress as individual states have abolished or limited the death penalty.

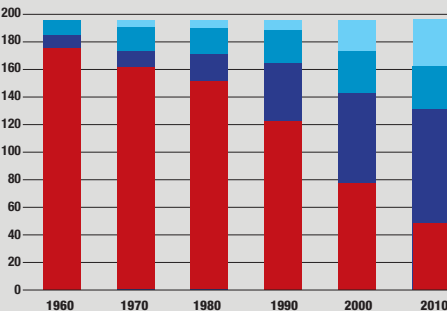
Notably, many other countries have also abolished the death penalty in the past: Armenia, Bhutan, Burundi, Cook Islands, Gabon, Greece, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Mexico, the Philippines, Rwanda, Samoa, Senegal, Togo, Turkey and Uzbekistan.

Several countries that have not legally abolished the death penalty have at least ended it in practice, either by declaring an official moratorium or by not carrying out executions. For example, Sierra Leone and Nigeria have declared a moratorium on executions, and Tajikistan has had a moratorium on both death sentences and executions since 2004.

Countries such as Antigua and Barbuda, Trinidad and Tobago and Algeria have not carried out executions in recent years, hopefully indicating their eventual movement towards complete abolition. In another example, Swaziland described its status to the UN Human Rights Council as “retentionist in law, abolitionist in practice.”

Many countries that have not yet abolished or imposed a moratorium have taken steps to narrow the scope of the death penalty.

Retentionist and Abolitionist Countries Trends

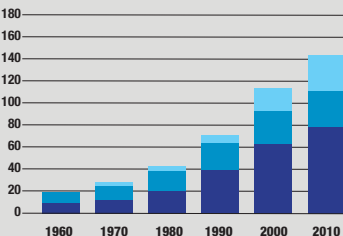


The definition of **Abolitionist in practice** for purposes of this leaflet is based on Amnesty International's definition, which states: “Countries which retain the death penalty for ordinary crimes such as murder but can be considered abolitionist in practice in that they have not executed anyone during the past 10 years and are believed to have a policy or established practice of not carrying out executions. The list also includes countries which have made an international commitment not to use the death penalty.”

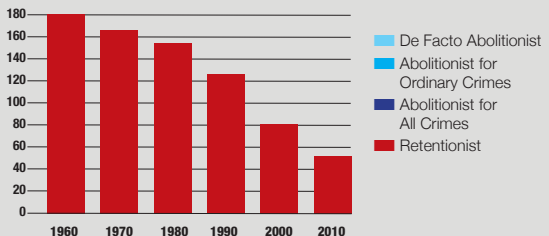


See Abolitionist and Retentionist Countries, Amnesty International, www.amnesty.org/en/death-penalty/abolitionist-and-retentionist-countries, last visited June 5, 2012.

Abolitionist Countries



Retentionist Countries



■ De Facto Abolitionist
■ Abolitionist for Ordinary Crimes
■ Abolitionist for All Crimes
■ Retentionist

Kazakhstan has abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes.

China recently eliminated the death penalty for certain economic crimes, and it has reintroduced mandatory review of all death penalty cases by the Supreme People's Court.

India's Bombay High Court struck down the mandatory death penalty for drug offenses in July 2011.

Also, Taiwan reduced the number of crimes punishable by the death penalty in 2011.

Over the last decade, several retentionist countries have implemented many of the universal international safeguards on their application of the death penalty and have eliminated that punishment for certain categories of persons. For example:

• Persons Suffering from Intellectual Disabilities

In 2003, the U.S. Supreme Court prohibited the execution of people with intellectual disabilities.

• Persons Suffering from Mental Illness

Thailand has ceased using the death penalty against persons suffering from mental disorders.

• Juveniles

While a few countries, including Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen, have sentenced juvenile offenders to death, Iran was the only country in 2010 and 2011 to still execute those under the age of 18 at the time the crime was committed. In a promising move, in May 2011, Sudan accepted the UN Human Rights Council recommendations that it would not apply the death penalty against juvenile offenders.

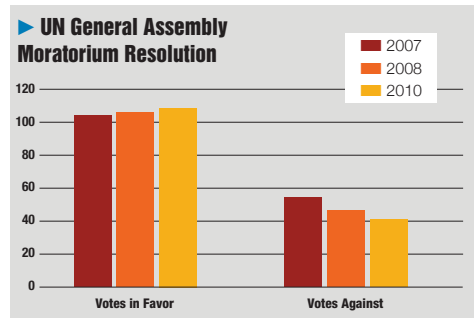
• Pregnant Women

In 2003, Uganda stated a death sentence cannot be imposed on a pregnant woman, and she will receive a sentence of life imprisonment instead.



Recent International Legal Developments

The UN has also continued its efforts to encourage countries with the death penalty to abolish its use, to invoke a moratorium or limit its scope through the Secretary-General and the Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council.



Moreover, in 2007, 2008 and 2010, the UN General Assembly adopted three resolutions calling on States to:

- establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty;
- restrict the number of offences which it punishes;
- publish information on its use;
- respect international standards that provide safeguards guaranteeing the protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty;
- not reintroduce the death penalty once it is abolished.

The World Coalition itself is leading a campaign to support this resolution's upcoming vote in 2012

See:
<http://www.worldcoalition.org/moratorium.html>



10 reasons to end the death penalty

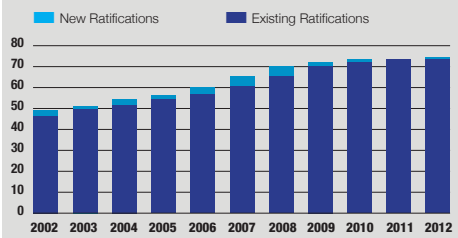
- 1 No state should have the power to take a citizen's life.**
- 2 It is irrevocable:** no justice system is safe from judicial error and innocent people are likely to be sentenced to death.
- 3 It does not keep society safe:** it has never been shown that the death penalty deters crimes more effectively than other punishments.
- 4 It is unfair:** the death penalty is discriminatory and is often used disproportionately against the poor, the mentally ill, those from racial and ethnic minorities, and in some places in the world because of discrimination because of sexual orientation or religion.
- 5 Not all murder victims' families want the death penalty.** A large and growing number of victims' families worldwide reject the death penalty and are speaking out against it, saying it does not bring back or honor their murdered family member, does not heal the pain of the murder, and violates their ethical and religious beliefs.
- 6 It creates more pain:** the death penalty inflicts pain on the families of those on death row and causes great pain to the family members of those who have been executed.
- 7 It is inhuman, cruel and degrading:** the dreadful conditions on death row inflict extreme psychological suffering and execution is a physical and mental assault.
- 8 It is applied overwhelmingly in violation of international standards:** it breaches the principles of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that everyone has the right to life and that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. It is also in contradiction with the international trend towards abolition reflected by three votes at the United Nations General Assembly calling for the establishment of a moratorium on the use of the death penalty (resolutions 62/149, 63/168 and 65/206 adopted in December 2007, 2008 and 2010).
- 9 It is inefficient:** time and money are diverted from other more efficient law enforcement measures.
- 10 It denies any possibility of rehabilitation to the criminal.**

Support by UN Member States for this important resolution has increased each year, as has the number of those ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

To date, 74 countries are parties to the Protocol, with Mongolia, Brazil, Argentina, the Philippines, San Marino and Turkey joining in the past decade.

The World Coalition spearheads a campaign to promote ratifications of the Second Optional Protocol. The target countries for 2012's ratification campaign are: Dominican Re-

► Ratifications of Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR Aiming at Abolition of the Death Penalty



public, Latvia, Benin, Mongolia, Bolivia, Poland, Angola, Armenia, Burundi and El Salvador.

See:
<http://www.worldcoalition.org/protocol.html>





Focus Forward: Challenges Ahead in the Next 10 Years

Despite worldwide progress, work remains to be done to increase countries that abolish the death penalty, to halt efforts to reinstate the death penalty or expand its scope, to ensure procedural safeguards are followed in all death penalty cases and to make information on its use publicly available.

While progressive restriction of the death penalty has increased over the last decade, some countries have expanded, or attempted to expand, its scope to include:

- **Drugs:** 32 countries or territories still have laws imposing the death penalty for drug offences. Drug offenders make up the majority of those condemned to die in many retentionist countries.
- **Homosexuality:** Some countries, including Liberia and Uganda, have launched efforts to impose the death penalty for acts of homosexuality.
- **Terrorism:** Some countries are adopting or amending laws for terrorist crimes or against those supporting terrorist acts. Many of these crimes are far-reaching and do not necessarily require a lethal or extremely grave consequence to qualify for a death sentence. Syria imposed the death penalty for those arming terrorists in December 2011. Bangladesh, India and Nigeria have also adopted laws expanding the scope of the death penalty by including terrorist acts among the offenses punishable by death. Five Guantánamo detainees suspected of involvement in the September 11 terrorist plot could also face a death sentence in the USA.

Certain countries have resumed their use of the death penalty. Afghanistan, Taiwan, Equatorial Guinea, the United Arab Emirates and Japan have resumed executions after a hiatus, in stark contrast with the global trend of abolition.

Finally, countries such as China and Iran continue to carry out their executions in secrecy, contrary to fundamental notions that such information should be made available to the public. Moreover, transparency is critical to prevent errors or abuses and safeguard fairness.



Further Work to Eradicate the Death Penalty

On a global scale, further work needs to be done to build on the foundation of abolition thus far by focusing on the following goals:

- **Promote national legislation abolishing the death penalty.**
- **Increase ratifications of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR,** aiming at the abolition of the death penalty: The USA, most of Africa and Asia, and many Caribbean countries still have not ratified the Protocol. Their adoption and commitment to the Protocol would also create a strong foundation for abolition at national level.
- **Support international standards calling for the abolition or restricted use of the death penalty:** Further efforts must encourage the adoption and ratification of regional treaties against the death penalty in Africa, the Americas and Europe, and the respect of international safeguards for the rights of those facing the death penalty.

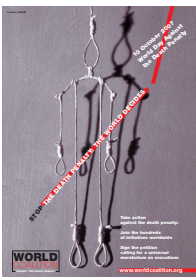
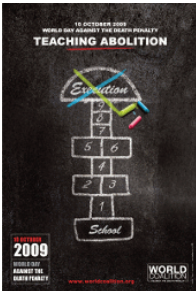
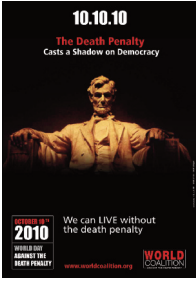
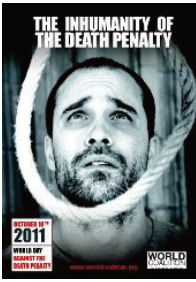
- **Support adoption of the 2012 UN General Assembly Resolution on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty:** In December 2012, the UN General Assembly will vote on a fourth resolution on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty. Increased support from UN Member States will be further proof of the global trend towards abolition.



**Take action :
10 October 2012
say NO
to the
death penalty.**

10 things you can do to end the death penalty

- 1 Donate** to the World Coalition against the Death Penalty or another group working to end the death penalty.
- 2 Organize a public debate and a movie show** with exonerees, murder victim's families, experts, to raise awareness on the reality of the death penalty...
- 3 Organize an art exhibition** (photo, drawings, posters) or a **theatre play** from Dead Man Walking to Victor Hugo.
- 4 Organize a demonstration, a sit-in, a 'die-in,' a flash mob...**
- 5 Join the events** prepared for the abolition of the death penalty worldwide.
- 6 Teach abolition** to your friends and relatives.
- 7 Write to a prisoner on death row.**
- 8 Join an abolitionist organization.**
- 9 Mobilize the media** to raise awareness on the issue of the death penalty.
- 10 Participate in the "Cities Against the Death Penalty/Cities for Life"** on November 30, 2012.



To find out more...

Find out everything about the World Day Against the Death Penalty at www.worldcoalition.org/worldday, including:



- The poster of the 2012 World Day
- The mobilisation kit
- Detailed factsheets on the death penalty around the world
- The 2011 World Day Reports which includes hundreds of examples of initiatives
- The pedagogical guide

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

The World Day Against the Death Penalty was created in 2003 by the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty to help activists worldwide rally to oppose the death penalty and unite behind the struggle for universal abolition.

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty is an alliance of more than 130 NGOs, bar associations, local authorities and unions. The aim of the World Coalition is to strengthen the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty. Its ultimate objective is to obtain the universal abolition of the death penalty. The World Coalition gives a global dimension to the sometimes isolated action taken by its members on the ground. It complements their initiatives, while constantly respecting their independence.



This document was produced with the financial support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway and the Paris Bar. The content of this document is the sole responsibility of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty and should in no way be considered to reflect the position of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway or the Paris Bar.

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