

Steering Committee members:

Arab Coalition Against the Death Penalty, Collectif Unitaire National de Soutien à Mumia Abu-Jamal, Coalition nationale pour l'abolition de la peine de mort au Maroc, Community of Sant'Egidio, Death Penalty Focus, Culture pour la Paix et la Justice, Ensemble contre la peine de mort, International Federation of Human Rights Leagues, Fédération Syndicale Unitaire, International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture, Lawyers For Human Rights International, Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights, National Association of Criminal Defence Lawyers, Paris Bar, Penal Reform International, Puerto Rico Bar Association, Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty, Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Tuscany Region.

Other members:

ACAT France, ACAT Libéria, Advocates for Human Rights, Adaleh Center for Human Rights, ADPAN, ALIVE, American Friends Service Committee, Amnesty International, Association for the Rights to Live, Association Marocaine des Droits Humains, Action pour Education de qualité (Apeq), Avocats sans frontier, Bahrain Human Rights Society, Belarusian Helsinki Committee, City of Braine l'Alleud, California People of Faith working against the death penalty, Centre for Prisoner's Rights, Campaign to end death penalty, Center for Global non Killing, Centre marocain des droits humains, Coalition nationale tunisienne contre la peine de mort, Collectif des Organisations des Jeunes Solidaires du Congo-Kinshasa, Comité des Observateurs des Droits de l'Homme, Comitato Paul Rougeau, Comité Syndical Francophone de l'Education et de la Formation, Conférence Internationale des Barreaux, Congolese Youth Movement, Conseil National pour les Libertés en Tunisie, CURE, Death Watch International, City of Dijon, Droits et Paix, Equal Justice, Federation of Liberal Students, Forum Africain contre la Peine de Mort, Forum 90 Japan, Forum marocain pour la Vérité et la Justice, Foundation for Human Rights Initiative, German Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Hands Off Cain, Hope & Justice, Human Rights Watch, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, HURILAWS, International Organization for Diplomatic Relations, International commission of jurists, Iranian Human Rights Activists Groups in EU and North America, Iraqi Alliance for the Prevention of the death penalty, Iraqi Center for Human Rights and Democracy Studies, Italian Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Journey of Hope...from Violence to Healing, Kids Against the Death Penalty, KontraS, Law Student's Forum, Leaders Organization, Legal and Human Rights Centre, LDVDH Lifespark, Ligue des Droits de l'Homme, Ligue ivoirienne des Droits de l'Homme, Lutte Pour la Justice, City of Matera, Mauritanian Coalition Against Death Penalty MEDEL, Mêmes droits pour tous, Michigan Committee Against Capital Punishment, Mothers Against Death Penalty, Mouvement contre le Racisme et pour l'Amitié entre les Peuples, National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, National Lawyers Guild, Nigerian Humanist Movement, Observatoire marocain des prisons, Observatoire National des Prisons, Ordine Provinciale dei Medici-Chirurghi e degli odontoiatri di Firenze, Ordre des avocats du Barreau de Liège, Ordre des avocats de Genève, Ordre des avocats des Hauts de Seine, Ordre des Barreaux francophones et germanophones de Belgique, Organisation marocaine des droits humains, Pacific Concerns Resource Centre, Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, Pax Christi Uvira asbl, People of Faith Against the Death Penalty, Puerto Rican Coalition against the Death Penalty, RADHOMA, RAIDH, City of Reggio Emilia, Rights and Democracy, Reprieve, ROTAB, Stop Child Executions, SYNAFEN, Union Chrétienne pour le Progrès et la Défense des Droits de l'Homme, Unis pour l'abolition de la peine de mort, The International Harm Reduction Association, US Human Rights Network, City of Venice, Victorian Criminal Justice Coalition, Women's Information Consultative Center, World Organisation against Torture.

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[1] ABOLITIONIST AND NON-ABOLITIONIST COUNTRIES

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

- **97 countries** have abolished the death penalty for all crimes;
- **8 countries** have abolished the death penalty for all crimes except extraordinary crimes such as those committed in times of war;
- **34 countries** are *de facto* abolitionists: the death penalty is still provided for in legislation but no executions have been carried out for at least ten years.

Therefore, **139 countries** have abolished the death penalty *de jure* or *de facto*. However, **58 countries** and territories still uphold the death penalty and use this punishment. That said, 'only' **23 countries** carried out executions in 2010.

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

Since 1990 more than **57 countries** have abolished capital punishment for all crimes: in **Africa** (recent examples include Gabon, Togo and Burundi); the **Americas** (Mexico, Paraguay and Argentina); **Asia-Pacific** (the Philippines and Samoa, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan); and **Europe and the South Caucasus** (Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Cyprus).

In the Americas, the USA was the only nation to carry out executions in 2010 and one State, Illinois abolished the death penalty in March 2011. In sub-Saharan Africa four countries executed prisoners: Botswana Equatorial Guinea, Somalia and Sudan. In Asia, there were no executions in Afghanistan, Indonesia, Mongolia and Pakistan for the second year in a row. In Europe, only Belarus continues to use the death penalty and executed 2 prisoners in March 2010.

[3] DEATH SENTENCES AND EXECUTIONS

During 2010 at least **527 prisoners** (excluding China) were executed in **18 countries** and at least **2024 people** were sentenced to death in **67 countries**. These figures only reflect cases of which Amnesty International was aware and the actual number is certainly higher.

In 2010, the nations with the highest number of executions were China, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Saudi Arabia and the United States.

[China and North Korea]

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** have taken place in 2010. However, even under these conditions, a positive development is underway: in February 2011, the National People's Congress of China passed a law reducing the number of offenses punishable by death from 68 to 55.

Amnesty International received reports that at least **60 people** were executed in North Korea in 2010. Executions are usually carried out in secret, but an increased number of executions were held in public to serve as an example to others.

[Iran, Saudi Arabia and Yemen]

According to the information gathered by Amnesty International, Iran executed at least **252** individuals in 2010. According to Iran Human Rights' annual report, at least **546** people were executed in 2010, 312 of which have been confirmed officially or unofficially by the Iranian authorities.

In Yemen, at least **53** people were executed in 2010. Saudi Arabia executed at least **27** individuals compared to 69 in 2009 and 102 in 2008.

[United States of America]

In the United States **12** States carried out executions in 2010, taking the lives of **46** people (compared to 52 in 2009), therefore bringing the total number of people executed since capital punishment was reinstated in 1977 to 1,234.

In March 2010, Illinois became the 16th State to abolish the death penalty, closely following New Mexico in 2009, and New Jersey in 2007.

[4] METHODS OF EXECUTION

Since 2000 the following methods have been used:

- **decapitation** (Saudi Arabia);
- **electrocution** (United States);
- **hanging** (Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Pakistan, Singapore, ...);
- **lethal injection** (China, United States, Guatemala, Thailand);
- **execution by firing squad** (Belarus, China, Somalia, Vietnam, ...);
- **stoning** (Afghanistan, Iran).

[5] USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY AGAINST JUVENILE OFFENDERS

International human rights treaties 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.

In 2010, **Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, United Arab Emirates and Yemen** imposed death sentences on individuals that were below 18 years of age when the crimes were committed. In **Nigeria**, although Nigeria's Child Rights Act prohibits the death penalty, more than 20 prisoners currently on death row were sentenced for offences committed when they were below the age of 18.

[6] INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS SUPPORTING ABOLITION

One important aspect of the progress which has been made recently is the adoption of international treaties through which States pledge not to use capital punishment:

- **Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**, which aims to abolish the death penalty and has been ratified by **73** 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 **11** 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 **42** European States and signed by 3 others.

The object 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.