

Created in Rome in May 2002, the Coalition brings together legal associations, unions, local governments, non-governmental organizations and others who are committed to the struggle against the death penalty and who want to coordinate their lobbying and actions at an international level.

#### Steering Committee members

Amnesty International, Collectif Unitaire National de Soutien à Mumia Abu-Jamal, Comité national pour l'abolition de la peine de mort au Maroc, Comité des Observateurs des Droits de l'Homme, 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 Bars Conference, International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture, Mothers Against the Death Penalty, Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, National Lawyers Guild, Paris Bar, Observatoire Marocain des Prisons, Organisation marocaine des droits humains, Penal Reform International, Tuscany

#### Other members

ACAT France, American Friends Service Committee, City of Andoian, Association for the Right to Live, Association Marocaine des Droits Humains, Bahrain Human Rights Society, City of Braine l'Alleud, Center for Prisoner's Rights, Comitato Paul Rougeau, Comité Syndical Francophone de l'Education et de la Formation, CURE, City of Dijon, Forum 90 Japan, Forum marocain pour la Vérité et la Justice, Foundation for Human Rights Initiative, Italian Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, Iranian Human Rights Activists Groups in EU and North America, Journey of Hope, Lifespark, Ligue des Droits de l'Homme, Lutte Pour la Justice, City of Matera, Moroccan Centre of Human Rights, Mouvement contre le Racisme et pour l'Amitié entre les Peuples, National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Ordine Provinciale dei Medici-Chirurghi e degli odontoiatri di Firenze, Ordre des Barreaux francophones et germanophones de Belgique, Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, Pax Christi Uvira asbl, People of Faith Against the Death Penalty, Puerto Rican Coalition against the Death Penalty, City of Reggio Emilia, Rights and Democracy, SOS Attentats - SOS Terrorisme, Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty, Texas Coalition to abolish the death penalty, City of Venice, World Organisation against Torture.

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## THE DEATH PENALTY FACTS AND FIGURES

### [ 1 ] ABOLITIONIST AND NON-ABOLITIONIST COUNTRIES

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

- **90** countries have abolished the death penalty **for all crimes**;
- **10** countries have abolished the death penalty **for all crimes except extraordinary crimes** such as those committed in times of war;
- **30** 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, **130 countries** have abolished the death penalty de jure or de facto.

However, 69 countries and territories still uphold the death penalty and use this punishment. That said, 'only' 25 countries performed executions in 2006.

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

Since 1990 more than **50** countries have abolished capital punishment for all crimes: in **Africa** (recent examples include Ivory Coast, Liberia and Rwanda); the **Americas** (Canada, Mexico and Paraguay); **Asia-Pacific** (Bhutan, the Philippines and Samoa); and **Europe and the South Caucasus** (Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cyprus, Montenegro and Turkey).

### [ 3 ] DEATH SENTENCES AND EXECUTIONS

During 2006 at least **1,591** prisoners were executed in **25 countries** and **3,861** people were sentenced to death in **55 countries**. These figures only reflect cases of which Amnesty International (AI) was aware and the actual number is certainly higher. However, the figure is lower than in 2005 (2,148 executions and 5,186 sentences).

#### [ China ]

In 2006 **91%** of executions registered took place in China, the United States, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan and Sudan. AI estimates that China executed at least **1,010 people** during the course of the year but the actual number is probably far higher and some sources estimate it to be between 7,500 and 8,000 people. Official national statistics on the application of capital punishment remain a state secret. It is therefore very difficult to obtain real, reliable information on the situation of the death penalty in the country.

#### [ Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Sudan ]

Iran executed at least **177** people (almost twice as many as in 2005), Pakistan at least **82** and Iraq and Sudan at least **65** each. But the true number could be higher.

## [ United States ]

In the United States 12 States performed executions, taking the lives of **53** people (compared to 60 in 2005), therefore bringing the total number of people executed since capital punishment was reinstated in 1977 to 1,057.

In 2006 senators in New Jersey introduced a moratorium on executions and set up a committee to study all aspects of the application of capital punishment in their State. In its final report in January 2007, the committee recommended abolishing this punishment. Further, in 2006 executions were suspended in some States of the Union due to legal action and concerns over the practice of lethal injections.

On 1 January 2007 approximately **3,350** prisoners were sentenced to death.

It is difficult to provide an estimate at international level of the number of prisoners sentenced to death awaiting application of their punishment. However, on the basis of various sources, this figure can be estimated to be between **19,185 and 24,646** people in 2006.

## [ 5 ] 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 and other countries);
- **lethal injection** (China, United States, Guatemala, Thailand);
- **execution by firing squad** (Belarus, China, Uzbekistan, Somalia, Taiwan, Vietnam and other countries);
- **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. More than **100 countries** which still uphold capi-

tal punishment for some crimes expressly forbid the execution of juvenile offenders in their legislation, or should exclude this sort of execution as they are party to one of other of these treaties. However, a small number of countries continue to execute juvenile offenders. In Iran, four juvenile offenders were executed in 2006 and two during the first half of 2007. In 2006 a juvenile offender was also executed in Pakistan.

## [ 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. Currently, there are four such treaties:

- the **Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which aims to abolish the death penalty** and has been ratified by sixty States. Eight other countries have signed the Protocol, thereby signalling their intention to become party to this instrument at a later date;
- the **Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights on the abolition of the death penalty**, which has been ratified by eight States on the American continent and signed by two others;
- **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 45 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 39 European States and signed by seven others.

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

[Source : *Amnesty international*  
[www.efai.amnesty.org/peinedemort](http://www.efai.amnesty.org/peinedemort)]

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[www.worldcoalition.org](http://www.worldcoalition.org)