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Acting for the abolition of the death penalty around the world

French version



Edito



by **Amnesty International**

On 21 April, we published our annual report on the global use of the death penalty, which shows that in 2020 the world got one step closer to freeing itself from this cruel punishment.

Edito



Known executions decreased by 26% compared to 2019, continuing the year-on-year reduction that we recorded since 2015 and reaching the lowest figure in more than 10 years. This does not include the thousands of executions that we believe continued to be carried out in China, which classifies data on the death penalty as a state secret, as well as executions in countries where access to information is very limited.

The significant drop in known executions was primarily linked to decreases in Iraq and Saudi Arabia, where recorded executions halved and reduced by 85%, respectively, compared to 2019. Known executions for drug-related offences in Saudi Arabia reduced from 84 in 2019 to just five in 2020.

To a lesser degree, hiatuses in court proceedings and executions that took place in response to the Covid-19 pandemic were also a factor behind this global fall in recorded executions; and impacted the number of known death sentences imposed in many countries – leading to an overall 36% reduction compared to 2019.

In 2020, as the world focused on the pandemic and protecting people's lives, we also recorded alarming increases in the resort to executions by some states. Egypt more than tripled its yearly figure; in the USA the Trump administration resumed federal executions and put 10 men to death over five and a half months. India, Oman, Qatar and Taiwan also resumed state killings. In China, the authorities

announced a crackdown on criminal acts that affected Covid-19 prevention efforts, resulting in at least one man going from arrest to execution at chilling speed. Restrictions on the use of the death penalty under international human rights law and standards continued to be violated in many countries.

We also saw Chad and the US state of Colorado fully abolished the death penalty, followed this year by the US state of Virginia and Malawi; and a record number of states (123) supporting the biennial resolution on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty at the UN General Assembly. In 2020, the global trend continued to be in favour of abolition. 2021 ought to be no different.

Latest News



The Commonwealth of Virginia Abolishes the Death Penalty



Malawi Abolishes the Death Penalty

Malawi's highest court finds the death penalty 'unconstitutional' and a violation of the right to life.

World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

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Adoption of Bill

fiacat statement



Statement

Allowing the Imposition of the Death Penalty for a New Crime.

Philippine House Bill No. 7814 provides the death penalty for a new crime under the 2002 Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act.

Grace Keane O'Connor

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delivered to ACHPR on its 68th Ordinary Session

Oral statement on behalf of FIACAT, FIDH, World Coalition against the Death Penalty, ECPM, Avocats sans frontières, COJESKI-RDC, ECPM, RAL and Reprieve on the activities of the Members of the Commission and the Special Mechanisms.

FIACAT, FIDH, WCADP, Avocats Sans Frontières, COJESKI-RDC, ECPM, RAL and Reprieve

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Armenia's flag



At least 267 People Executed in Iran in 2020 Despite COVID-19 Pandemic

The 13th annual report on the death penalty by Iran Human Rights (IHR) and ECPM (Together Against the Death Penalty), shows that despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Islamic Republic continued carrying out executions as in the previous years, and remains the only country to have executed juvenile offenders in 2020.

Iran Human Rights and Ensemble Contre La Peine de Mort (ECPM)

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New Documents



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Annual report on the death penalty in Iran 2020

Document published by Iran Human Rights (IHR), ECPM (Together Against the Death Penalty)

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Death Penalty For Drug Offences: Global Overview 2020

Document published by Harm Reduction International (HRI)

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Death Penalty in India: Annual Statistics Report 2020

Document published by Amnesty International (available in 6 languages)

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Capital punishment and implementation of the safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty

Document published by the United Nations (available in 6 languages)

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Isolation and desolation conditions of detention of people sentenced to death Malaysia

Document published by Carole Berrih, Ngeow Chow Ying (available in 3 languages)

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Issues and recommendations to raise with the government of Malawi

Document published by Reprieve, Sant'egidio, WCADP

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Important dates



Agenda image



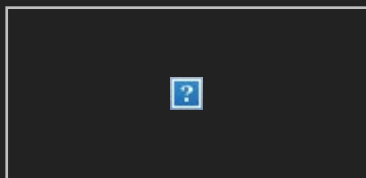
June 3rd | Conversation Series: Death Penalty Holdouts in the South Pacific

13:00 (AEST) | Online seminar hosted by Eleos Justice, Monash Faculty of Law and Capital Punishment Justice Project (CPJP)™.

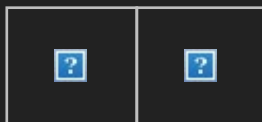
[More information and registration here.](#)

June 18th | General Assembly of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

Online from 2:30 to 4:30 pm Paris time (GMT+2)



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