



*Acting for the abolition of the death penalty around the world*

French version



Edito



**by Teppei Ono | Secretary General,  
Center for Prisoners' Rights Japan**

The UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (UN Crime Congress) was held in Kyoto, Japan from 7 to 12 March 2021. The event was initially scheduled to be held in April 2020 but was postponed due to the outbreak of COVID-19.

Edito



The re-structured Congress, a six-day session instead of the original eight days, was the first in its history to occupy a hybrid format, with very limited in-person participation in Kyoto and large online participation. **A total of 5,600 people** from 152 countries are participating, with some 4,200 registered to attend virtually and over 160 sessions were organised covering a wide range of topics including death penalty.

**The UN Crime Congress** is the world's largest and most diverse conference in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. It has been held every five years since 1955 in different parts of the world, dealing with a vast array of topics. Since the last UN Crime Congress in Doha in 2015, Japan has faced challenges on criminal justice. It carried out **mass executions against members of the Aum Shinrikyo cult group in 2018** and was forced to confront with the **James Bond-like escape of Carlos Ghosn in 2019** – the former president of Nissan. Japanese civil society has attempted to raise international awareness of its death penalty and “**hostage justice**” system, particularly after Japan was determined to host the Congress.

At the Congress, **the Kyoto Declaration** was passed by acclamation. The Kyoto Declaration provides several actions that State parties endeavour to take regarding advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law. The next Crime Congress is to be held in 2025. Kazakhstan – one of the countries which have abolished death penalty recently – showed its interest to host the next Congress

before the pandemic, but it has yet to be formally decided.

[Click here to read the full review.](#)

Latest News



The Commonwealth of Virginia Abolishes the Death Penalty



## **The Commonwealth of Virginia Abolishes the Death Penalty**

Virginia became the 23rd US State to formally ban capital punishment.

Louis Linel

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**Abolition of the death penalty must be an integral part of crime prevention**

fiacat statement



**UN High Level Panel on the Death Penalty and Deterrence**

The UN Biennial High Level

## **programmes and criminal justice reforms**

As the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is about to begin in Kyoto, Japan, the undersigned organizations urge the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and its subsidiary bodies, including the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); and all UN member states, including the Congress host country Japan, to make abolition of the death penalty an integral component of programmes to prevent crime and improve criminal justice systems globally.

Amnesty International

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Panel on the Death penalty focused on the deterrent effect capital punishment has on crime. Representatives from member states, NGOs and NHRIs made statements to the high level panel discussing the deterrent theory.

Grace O'Connor

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### **Widespread and systematic violations of human rights in Iran**

Joint letter sent to Member states of the United Nations Human Rights Council on 12 March 2021



### **The Flaws of Deterrence Theory for Capital Punishment**

Joint Oral Statement delivered during the United Nations 46th Human Rights Council Biennial high-level panel discussion on the question of the death penalty

Impact Iran

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FIACAT

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Armenia's flag



## **Armenia ratifies international treaty for irreversible abolition of the death penalty**

Armenia ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR on 18 March 2021.

Aurélie Plaçais

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Important dates



Agenda image



**February | Launch of the Japan Innocence & Death Penalty Information Center newsletter**

You can consult [the first issue here](#).

To subscribe to the newsletter, contact [jjadep.org@gmail.com](mailto:jjadep.org@gmail.com)

**April 1st | Conversation Series: Death Penalty in Pakistan with Sarah Belal**

17:00 AEDT | Online seminar hosted by Eleos Justice and Capital Punishment Justice Project.

[More information and reservations here.](#)

**April 14th | The death penalty for drug offences in the the COVID-19 pandemic era - online webinar**

10 AM - 11 AM GMT+1 | The webinar is a side event on the 64th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which will be held from 12 - 16 April 2021.

Zoom webinar registration will be opened on 4 April 2021. For more information, please contact [Ajeng Larasati - ajeng.larasati@hri.global](mailto:ajeng.larasati@hri.global)

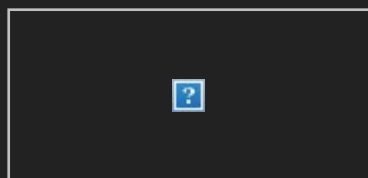
**April 14th - May 4th | 68th (virtual) Session of the ACHPR**

FIACAT and the World Coalition will participate in a joint panel on Violence against women in vulnerable situations.

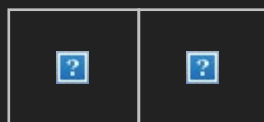
**May 13th | Conversation Series: Death Penalty in Singapore with Professor Michael Hor**

13:00 AEST | Online seminar hosted by Eleos Justice and Capital Punishment Justice Project.

[More information and reservations here.](#)



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