

Setback N° 1 Innocent and executed
 • Teng Xingshan, China

She Xianglin and Teng Xingshan were both convicted of the murder of their wives and sentenced to death. She Xianglin was later resentenced to 15 years imprisonment. In both cases, the wives reappeared several years later. She Xianglin was released after 11 years in prison in 2005 and officially cleared of all charges. Teng Xingshan, however, had been executed in 1989. Wherever the death penalty is used, the risk of executing the innocent remains.



LET'S ACT! Please write to the Chinese authorities requesting a halt to executions as a first step towards the abolition of the death penalty.

Setback N° 4 Execution of those suffering from mentally disabilities
 • Scott Panetti, United States

Scott Panetti suffers from schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. After his divorce, he dressed in military clothes and murdered his ex-wife's parents. He then changed his clothes and turned himself into the police. In spite of his acknowledged and long history of mental health problems, he was declared fit to stand trial and legally represent himself. In court, he dressed as a cowboy and often made incoherent remarks, mounting no formal legal defence. He was sentenced to death in 1995 and remains on death row in Texas.



LET'S ACT! Please write to the Governor of Texas requesting that he ensure no persons suffering from mental disabilities are sentenced to death and that all executions be halted as a first step to abolishing the death penalty.

Setback N° 2 Discrimination
 • Siti Zainab, Saudi Arabia

Siti Zainab Binti Duhri Rupa is an Indonesian mother of two children. In 1999 she was arrested and charged with the murder of her employer. Denied access to legal advice, her family or embassy, she confessed to the crime. Foreign nations face discrimination in the judicial system of Saudi Arabia and around half of those executed come from abroad. Many did not understand the language in which their trial was held. Siti Zainab remains imprisoned and is at risk of execution.



LET'S ACT! Please write requesting the Saudi Arabian authorities to protect the rights of all individuals, and especially foreigners, placed before the country's courts. Request them to halt all executions as a first step towards the abolition of the death penalty.

Setback N° 5 Death sentences for child offenders
 • Shahram Pourmansouri, Iran

Shahram Pourmansouri was sentenced to death for attempted hijacking of an aircraft in 2001 when aged 17. International law expressly forbids the execution of those under the age of 18 at the time of the crime. Iran and Pakistan are the only countries to currently execute child offenders (although Pakistan's laws forbid it). Shahram Pourmansouri was scheduled to be hanged in January 2005 but received a stay of execution. He remains condemned to death.



LET'S ACT! Please write to the Iranian authorities requesting that they forbid the execution of those under 18 years of age at the time of the crime and halt all executions as a first step to abolishing the death penalty.

Setback N° 3 Violation of the right to a fair trial
 • "Gloria" Nigeria

"Gloria" (she has requested her identity be protected) was arrested and charged with murder at the age of 17. Forced to wait 7 years before her trial, she was then tried without legal representation and sentenced to death. She remains unable to lodge a legal appeal because she has no lawyer. She has been imprisoned for the last 11 years in Urguru prison.



LET'S ACT! Please write to the four Nigerian states that continue to apply the death penalty to ensure that everyone has their fair trial rights protected and that all executions are halted as a first step towards the abolition of the death penalty.



Discrimination, unfair trials, judicial error, the execution of child offenders and those suffering from mental disabilities all amount to a failure of justice and provide more compelling reasons to abolish the death penalty. 10 October 2006 is the fourth World Day Against the Death Penalty. Join the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty in working for an end to the use of capital punishment and a globe free of judicial killing.

ON OCTOBER 10, 2006 WORLD DAY AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY
 take action on www.worldcoalition.org