

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

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Death Sentences and Executions in 2008 - In Numbers

On 24 March 2009 Amnesty International publishes *Death Sentences and Executions in 2008*, which provides a world overview on the death penalty. The report found that between January and December 2008*:

At least **2390** people were executed in 25 countries

On average **7** people were executed everyday around the world

At least **8864** people were sentenced to death in 52 countries

5 countries carried out **93%** of all executions
(China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and the USA)

Methods used included: **BEHEADING, STONING, HANGING, LETHAL INJECTION, SHOOTING, and ELECTROCUTION**

59 countries retain the death penalty

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

1 country in Europe continues to execute people - Belarus

Iran executed **8** prisoners who were **under 18** at the time of the offence – a flagrant breach of international law

* A copy of Amnesty International's report *Death Sentences and Executions in 2008* will be available from **24 March 2009 00:01 GMT on [ADD LINK](#)**.

Also available are a number of case studies of people who were executed during 2008 or who are currently on death row.

Amnesty International's spokespeople are available for interviews in English, Spanish, French and Arabic.

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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