

DEATH PENALTY NEWS

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

1 Easton Street
London WC1X 0DW
United Kingdom

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A QUARTERLY BULLETIN ON THE DEATH PENALTY AND MOVES TOWARDS WORLDWIDE
ABOLITION

NEW ABOLITIONIST PROTOCOL

The Council of Europe has adopted a new protocol on the death penalty. It is the first legally-binding international treaty to abolish the death penalty in all circumstances with no exceptions.

Protocol No. 13 to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms [European Convention on Human Rights, ECHR], concerning the abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances was adopted by the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers on 21 February. It will be opened for signature on 3 May. **AI** is calling on all Council of Europe member states to sign the Protocol immediately and to ratify it as soon as possible thereafter.

Protocol No. 13 is the fourth international treaty on the abolition of the death penalty to have been elaborated. Protocol No. 6 to the ECHR, adopted in 1982, provides for abolition except in time of war or imminent threat of war. The Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights to Abolish the Death Penalty provide for the total abolition of the death penalty but allow states to retain it in time of war if they make a reservation to that effect on ratifying the treaty.

The development of a totally abolitionist protocol was first proposed by Swedish member of parliament Hans Göran Franck in a report to the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly in 1994. A draft of Protocol No. 13 which implemented this proposal was agreed by the Committee of Experts for the Development of Human Rights in Strasbourg in October and by the Steering Committee on Human Rights in Strasbourg in November (see **DP News** December 2001).

Protocol No. 13 will enter into force three months after 10 states have agreed to be bound by it. Any state party to the ECHR may become a party to the Protocol.

The adoption of Protocol No. 13 marks another step in the Council of Europe's effort to make Europe a death penalty-free zone. The text of Protocol No. 13 and of the Explanatory Report can be found on the Council of Europe website www.coe.fr

INTERNATIONAL TREATIES

The Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political

Rights has been ratified by 46 countries and signed by 7; the **Protocol to the American Convention on Human**

Death Sentences and Executions in 2001

During 2001 at least **3,048** people were **executed in 31** countries. At least **5,265** people were **sentenced to death in 69** countries. These figures include only cases known to Amnesty International; the true figures were certainly higher.

The vast majority of executions worldwide were carried out in a tiny handful of countries. In 2001, 90 per cent of all known executions took place in China, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the USA. In China, limited and incomplete records available to Amnesty International at the end of the year indicated that at least 2,468 people were executed, but the true figure was believed to be much higher. At least 139 executions were carried out in Iran. In Saudi Arabia, 79 executions were reported, but the total may have been much higher. Sixty-six people were executed in the USA.

**Death Penalty Statistics:
Abolitionist and Retentionist Countries
(March 2002)**

Abolitionist for all crimes	74
Abolitionist for ordinary crimes only	15
Abolitionist in practice	22
Retentionist	84

Please check **AI's** website on www.amnesty.org for the latest updated statistics on **ratifications** of international treaties on the death penalty, **facts and figures** on the death penalty, lists of **abolitionist and retentionist countries, death sentences and executions in 2001** and *The Death Penalty Worldwide: Developments in 2001*, AI Index ACT 50/001/2002.

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COUNTRY		
DATE	SUBJECT	
Afghanistan	March September	Two women convicted of prostitution executed Four men publicly hanged
Azerbaijan	September	President signs law forbidding extradition where death penalty is allowed
Bangladesh	March June	First execution since 1997 More on first executions in over three years
Canada	March	Two Canadian men to be extradited to USA to face trial

Caribbean	March	Eastern Caribbean Court of Appeal rules against mandatory death penalty
Chile	June	Abolition for ordinary crimes
China	June September December	China steps up executions China dramatically increases executions China accused of organ harvesting Political executions continue Death sentence for embezzlement
Congo (Dem Rep)	June	Child soldier transferred to prison block reserved for prisoners condemned to death
Guinea	March	First known executions in 17 years
ols		India
Indonesia	June	First known executions in six years
Iran	March June September December	Opposition to death penalty Child offender hanged More than 28 executions in August, some of them public Man hanging on gallows pardoned by victim's family
Iraq	December	Decrees issued providing death penalty for prostitution, homosexuality, incest and rape. Also, those convicted of providing accommodation for prostitution will be executed by the sword
Ireland	June September	Referendum on death penalty Conference held on International Law and the Abolition of the Death Penalty
Italy	March	Hands Off Cain launches Internet petition for a UN vote to ban executions worldwide
Korea (South)	December	Draft bill to abolish death penalty
Nigeria	September	Sharia courts pass death sentences by stoning
Pakistan	September December	Death sentence for blasphemy Juvenile death sentences commuted
Philippines	March	Commutations
Russian Federation	September December	President supports moratorium Moves to abolish death penalty
Singapore	June	Recent Internet poll on death penalty reveals unexpected result
Tajikistan	December	Conference on death penalty held
Turkey	September	Parliament passes constitutional amendment limiting use of death penalty

USA	March June September December	<p>Massachusetts - House of Representatives votes not to reinstate the death penalty</p> <p>Florida - Spanish prisoner acquitted</p> <p>First US federal executions in 38 years</p> <p>Int'l Commission of Jurists rulings on USA</p> <p>Supreme Court Justice acknowledges serious questions being raised about use of death penalty in the US</p> <p>North Carolina - US Supreme Court dismisses mental retardation appeal as moot</p> <p>Virginia - US Supreme Court will consider mental retardation appeal</p> <p>Oklahoma - Court of Criminal Appeals grants indefinite stay of execution to Mexican citizen</p> <p>Texas - Child offender granted emergency stay of execution</p> <p>USA death penalty bar to extradition of criminal suspects</p> <p>Executions decrease for second year in a row</p> <p>New Mexico - First execution since 1960</p> <p>Pennsylvania - Mumia Abu-Jamal's death sentence overturned</p> <p>Texas - Child offender executed</p>
Zimbabwe	December	Three men hanged for murder
Council of Europe	June December	Calls for moratorium in Japan and USA New protocol drafted
World Congress against the Death Penalty	June	Appeal for a worldwide moratorium on the death penalty signed by 15 heads of parliament
United Nations	June	Commission on Human Rights adopts death penalty resolution
Vatican City State	March	New constitution published which does not mention death penalty