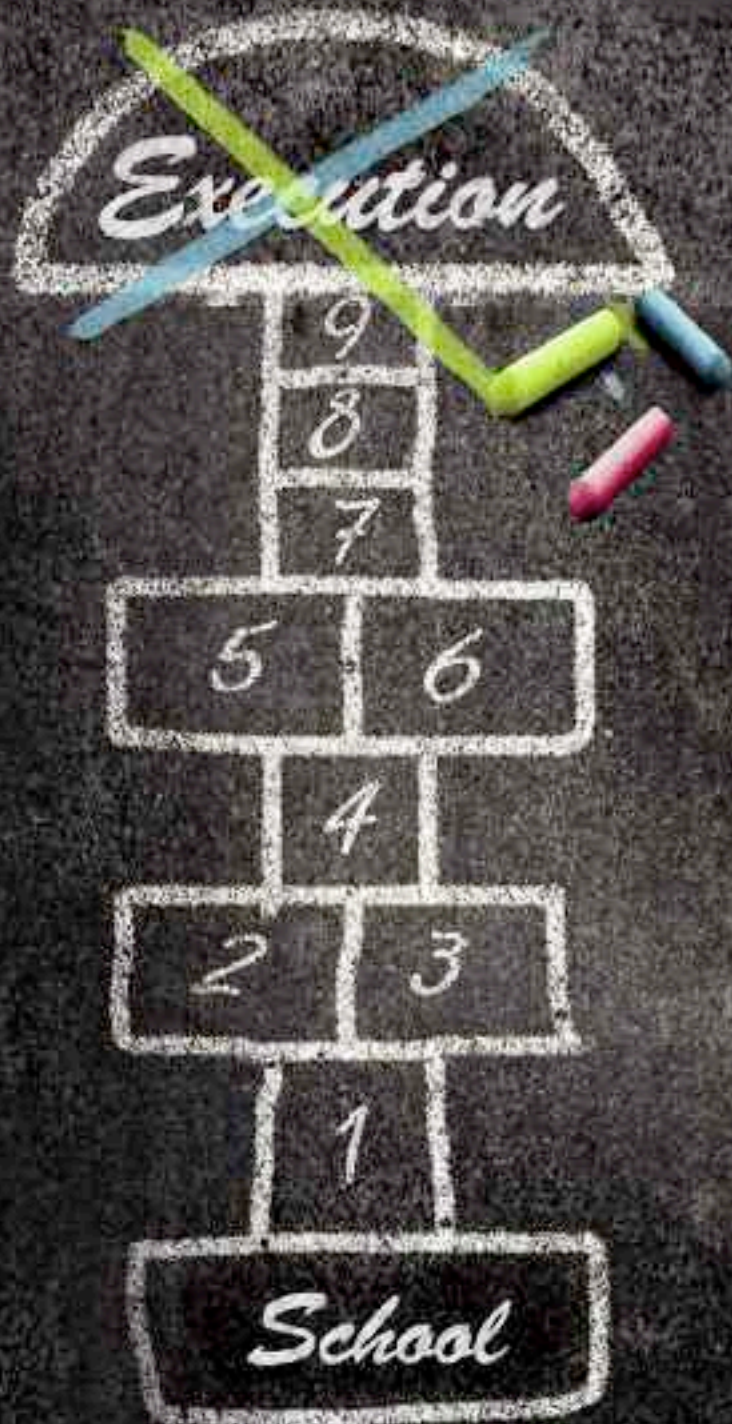


# EDUCATIONAL GUIDE

## Teaching Abolition



**WORLD**  
COALITION  
— AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY —

[www.worldcoalition.org](http://www.worldcoalition.org)

This Handbook is a campaign material produced under the supervision of the Executive Secretariat of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty:

Special thanks for their kind assistance to

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# Educational Guide World Day 2009

**For teachers  
of students  
aged 14 to 18**

*September 2009*

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The content of this document are the sole responsibility  
of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

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COALITION**  
— AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY —  
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# Educating towards Abolition

Every year the world takes another step towards universal abolition. In 2008 two new countries abolished the death penalty for all crimes (Argentina and Uzbekistan). Burundi abolished the death penalty on 22 April 2009 and Togo on 23 June 2009. As of June 2009, 139 countries are part of the international abolitionist family. Since 1990 more than 55 countries have abolished capital punishment.

Progress in the future will mainly depend on the education provided to children, our future citizens, politicians, accused, judges and lawyers. The world's future is in their hands and it will be up to each and every one of them as adults to join the abolitionist family.

By encouraging debates on the death penalty on 10th October, the members of the World Coalition would like pupils and students to understand the state of the world they are living in: the severity, and sometimes cruelty, but also the beauty of the human rights ideal. Our aim is for them to acquire essential knowledge and understand why the death penalty is an attack on basic rights.

This manual is aimed particularly at teachers of students aged 14 to 18, wherever they are in the world. It suggests activities in anticipation of the celebrations on 10th October, covering the arguments which support the abolitionist movement.

Why fighting for the Global Abolition of the Death Penalty?

⌊ **The death penalty is irrevocable:** no justice system is safe from judicial errors and innocent people are likely to be executed.

⌊ **The death penalty is inefficient:** it has never been shown to deter crimes more effectively than other punishments.

⌊ **The death penalty is unfair:** the death penalty is discriminatory and is often used disproportionately against the poor, the mentally ill, those discriminated against for reasons of sexual orientation, or from racial, ethnic and religious minorities.

⌊ **The death penalty is a cruel, inhuman, and degrading punishment:** waiting on death row inflicts extreme psychological suffering and execution is a physical and mental assault.

⌊ **The death penalty is applied frequently overwhelmingly in violation of international standards:** it breaches the principles of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that everyone has the right to life and that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. It is also in contradiction with the international trend towards abolition recognized by a vote at the United Nations' General Assembly calling for the establishment of a universal moratorium on the use of the death penalty (Resolution 62/149 adopted on 18 December 2007 and Resolution 63/168 adopted on December 2008).

Thanks to its many members and affiliates, the World Coalition can help you to organise activities on 10 October. The contact details of the members are given in the appendix.

With this Educational Guide, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty is launching a collaborative initiative which aims to improve the contributions of all. This guide will be regularly supplemented by new information and themes. It will also be frequently updated on the Coalition's website ([www.worldcoalition.org](http://www.worldcoalition.org)).

On behalf of the members of the World Coalition in more than thirty countries across the world, we thank you for your support.

**Florence Bellivier, FIDH**  
**Elisabeth Zitrin, DPF**  
**Francis Barbe, FSU**



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# The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP) brings together NGOs, bar associations, trade unions and regional/local public bodies that are active across the world in support of abolition of the death penalty. It was created in 2002 to reinforce the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty.

The World Coalition endeavours to strengthen international action in the fight against the death penalty, lead and coordinate international action (particularly lobbying), bring together new abolitionists and increase its

influence in countries where capital punishment still exists as part of national legislation. It helps creating national and regional coalitions and organizing world-wide events.

In 2003, the WCADP made October 10th the World Day Against the Death Penalty.

**World Coalition Against the Death Penalty**

**[www.worldcoalition.org](http://www.worldcoalition.org)**

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**France**

# The World Day Against the Death Penalty

In 2003, the WCADP made October 10th the World Day Against the Death Penalty. For six years now, initiatives have been developed worldwide. In 2007, it was officially recognized as the 'European Day Against the Death Penalty'.

During the previous editions, local actions took place all over the world: in 2003, 63 countries joined forces and took 188 actions against death penalty. For the second occurrence, in 2004, 205 initiatives were taken in 24 countries.

The 3rd World Day, in 2005, was celebrated in 46 countries through 263 actions. For this occasion, a petition, inviting the African Heads of State to abolish the death penalty, collected over 42,000 signatures and was delivered to the African Union's Chairmanship.

In 2006, 450 local actions were taken all over the world. In addition, 5 petitions circulated to support five emblematic death row inmates who were convicted after justice failures: conviction of innocents; discrimi-

natory sentences; unfair trials; cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and death sentence for mentally ill. These petitions collected over 145,000 signatures.

In 2007, on the occasion of the World Day, the World Coalition decided to encourage an international mobilisation in favour of the resolution calling for the establishment of a global moratorium on the death penalty at the 62nd session of the United Nation General Assembly. More than 411 initiatives were organised in 60 countries across five continents and over 160,000 petition signatures were collected.

The main action of 2008 was a call to end executions in Asia. More than 289 initiatives have been listed in more than 50 countries all over the world. This year, mobilization has been particularly good in Asia where abolitionists have organized both original and efficient campaigns. More than 20,000 appeals have then been sent to the Indian, Japanese, Pakistani, South Korean, Taiwanese and Vietnamese governments

# The International Convention on the Rights of the Child Celebrates Its 20th Birthday

**Article 37 (a) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child indicates that States Parties shall ensure that:**

*No child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Neither capital punishment nor life imprisonment without possibility of release shall be imposed for offences committed by persons below eighteen years of age.*

However, a small number of countries continue to execute juveniles. In 2007 a total of eleven children were executed: eight in Iran, two in Saudi Arabia and one in Yemen. Iran was the only known country in the world where executions of juvenile offenders took place in 2008: at least eight executions already took place this year according to Amnesty International. In 2008, at least 140 juveniles when the facts for which they are accused occurred were still believed to be on death row in Iran according to the organization Stop Child Executions.

International human rights treaties forbid the use of capital punishment for all those under 18 at the time of the crime of which they are accused.

The international Convention on the Rights of the Child is 20 this year. For the World Day Against the Death Penalty, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty will be celebrating the 20th birthday of the international Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The members of the World Coalition call on the countries which are flouting their commitments to immediately respect the international prohibitions that the death penalty is excluded for juveniles.

[ A ]

## The Death Penalty and International Law





[ **Activity A1** ]

# Role play: Moratorium 2010

Discussion and vote on a resolution at the UN General Assembly for a moratorium on application of the death penalty. This resolution is put to the vote every 2 years.

[ **A** ]  
**Summary**

Resolutions 62/149 and 63/168 of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) for a moratorium on application of the death penalty were adopted in December 2007 and 2008. This role play suggests anticipating the next vote on this resolution in 2010.

[ **B** ]  
**Aims**

- Better understanding of how the UN operates;
- Representation of the various sides: abolitionists, retentionists;
- Demonstration of human rights NGOs' lobbying role.

[ **C** ]  
**Age of the target audience**

16-18 years (distribution of class numbers is made on the basis of 28 students)

[ **D** ]  
**Equipment and preparation**

- Scenarios (see appendices);
- Text of the resolutions;
- Map of the abolition world;
- Sheet of paper folded in two with the name of the country and its flag.

[ **E** ]  
**Activity**

- **Simulation**

- During the first session: distribute the roles between students, distribute scenarios and present the death penalty situation in the world and how the UN operates;
- Tables are positioned in a hemicycle, facing the Secretary General's desk, the clerks and the platform for speaking;
- The country representatives are positioned according to their geographical proximity.

- **The roles**

- Nine teams of two students representing nine countries: Algeria, China, the United States, Belgium (Presidency of the European Union), Guatemala, Jordan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Syria;
- A UN Secretary General (the teacher who is also directing the game);
- Representatives from NGOs such as Amnesty International (2), Penal Reform International (2), the Fédération internationale des ligues des Droits de l'Homme (2) and the Fédération internationale de l'action des chrétiens contre la torture (2)
- One or two clerks unless the teacher agrees to take notes as the session progresses.

### – Execution of the session

- Speaking time is limited;
- The Secretary General opens the session and submits the agenda (5 mins);
- The representative from Mexico presents the draft resolution (5 mins);
- The representative from Syria expresses its opposition to the draft resolution (5 mins);
- 1st break: informal discussion (15 mins);
- Plenary debate (5 mins/country, or 45 mins);
- 2nd break: alliances are formed (15 mins).
- Plenary vote (15 mins)
- The Secretary General gives the floor to the country representatives
- Country representatives move to the platform to take the floor
- NGO representatives cannot speak in plenary, only during informal discussions

### – Extensions and variations

- 1st variation of 3 sessions:  
Session 1: Presentation of the Resolution  
Session 2: First exchanges (informal).  
Session 3: Official Session and vote;
- 2nd variation with presentations:  
additional preparation session during which the students present the country or NGO they represent and their position as regards the death penalty;
- 3rd variation:  
add countries such as Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Guinea Bissau, Italy, Kiribati, Peru, Singapore and Somalia;
- 4th variation:  
the game master reserves the right to send secret instructions to the various teams  
(1. public opinion is worried about an increase in organised crime and is demanding application of capital punishment,  
2. an international campaign is demanding that a prisoner currently on death row in your country not be executed, he is probably innocent,  
3. if you manage to convince only one State, the Head of State could offer you a governmental post,  
4. the European Union is preparing an assistance plan for adoption of a moratorium on the death penalty in your country)

### [ F ]

#### **Ressources**

- UN (debates are available on line)
- World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

[ B ]

## Innocence and Legal Errors





[ **Activity B1** ]

# The Death Penalty and Vengeance

[ **A** ]  
**Summary**

Vengeance is often put forward as justification for the existence of the death penalty but such a response to an act of aggression prevents the situation from being approached with the composure needed for a fair and impartial trial.

[ **B** ]  
**Aims**

Using songs, encourage students to understand the arguments in favour of and against the death penalty, and particularly the vengeful nature of the death penalty.

[ **C** ]  
**Age of the target audience**

14-16 years

[ **D** ]  
**Equipment and preparation**

Songs in favour of and against the death penalty

[ **E** ]  
**Activity**

– **Simulation**

*Man must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love.*

Martin Luther King, Nobel Peace Prize 1964

– **On the basis of the words of political songs:**

- What feeling springs from the words?
- What is the main message?
- What do you think about the view expressed in the song?
- What are the various attitudes possible in the face of a crime?
- In your opinion, who should judge crimes?
- What would the world be like if anyone could bestow justice?
- Do you know of a time in history when individuals were authorised to bestow justice?
- What is the difference between State vengeance and individual vengeance?
- Why are some murder victims' families against the death penalty?
- What conclusions can be drawn?

– **Extensions and variations**

- Justice and legitimate violence;
- The irreversible nature of the death penalty.

[ **F** ]  
**Ressources**

- Je suis pour, Michel Sardou.
- L'assassin assassin, Julien Clerc, words by Jean-Loup Dabadie.
- Idées noires, Franquin, published by Fluide glacial.

Songs and literature supporting and opposing abolition certainly exist in all languages. Teachers should use the work of their choosing.

[ c ]

## The Death Penalty and Human Rights (Torture and Racial Discrimination)





[ **Activity C1** ]

# Torture and the Death Penalty

[ **A** ]

**Summary**

The prohibition of torture is established in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted by the UN on 10 December 1984. The prohibition is absolute; no derogation is possible under any circumstances.

However, international law does not prohibit application of the death penalty and many States consider it to be the implementation of a sovereign decision passed by the national justice system which is not covered by human rights but internal penal law.

From concrete examples, students will examine whether application of the death penalty is compatible with the prohibition of all forms of torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

[ **B** ]

**Aims**

Help students understand the cruel and inhuman nature of the death penalty from the starting point of the absolute prohibition of torture in international law by:

- understanding the definitions of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment
- exploring the various aspects of application of the death penalty which are similar to these definitions: conditions of detention, waiting on death row, being put to death.

[ **C** ]

**Age of the target audience**

16-18 years

[ **D** ]

**Equipment**

Definition of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

Case studies of three people sentenced to death.

[ **E** ]

**Activity**

Lead a discussion on the box below (Definitions) by asking the following questions:

From these definitions, give examples of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment?

Does the death penalty correspond to one or several of these definitions?

**Definitions**

- Torture

Act through which acute physical or mental pain or suffering are intentionally inflicted on a person by a public servant or any other person acting in an official capacity, notably to obtain information or confessions, to punish, intimidate and apply pressure or for any other reason based on any form of discrimination.

- Inhuman treatment

An act, which voluntarily provokes particularly intense mental or physical suffering.

- Degrading treatment

An approach, which could lead individuals to feel fear, anxiety or inferiority, to humiliate them, debase them and break their physical or moral resistance.

*Sources: art1 UN Convention against Torture (1984) and European Convention for Human Rights*

- Lead a discussion on three case studies of people sentenced to death.

#### Case Study 1

##### Story of Sake Menda, a Japanese man sentenced to death and subsequently cleared

In 1949 Sake Menda was 23. He was arrested for armed robbery and double murder. Sentenced to be hanged in 1951, he was cleared and freed in 1983. He spent 32 years in death row cells.

For 11,500 days Sake Menda was alone in silence in a 5m<sup>2</sup> cell which was freezing in winter and burning hot in summer. He did not have the right to get up or go to bed without authorisation. He had no contact with the other detainees, only received rare visits and could only write a few letters which were always censored. For security reasons the light was never turned off and he was constantly filmed.

For 11,500 days from dawn Sakae Menda watched out for the noise of the guards' boots. In Japan prisoners sentenced to death are only informed of their execution at the very last moment and it can take place without warning within a few hours or 30 years.

Sake Menda describes his 11,500 mornings: "If there are a lot of guards that means that an execution is going to take place. But you never know which one of you has been chosen. The worst time is between 8 a.m. and 8.30 a.m. The noise of the boots resonates in the corridor. The steps stop. You can imagine eyes riveted on the door, breathing suspended at the noise of the key, cold shivers running down your spine. All is confusion within you. Only that door separates you from death. A neighbouring cell is opened and the fatal phrase falls: "The time has come".

Source : FIDH

- Inhuman and degrading conditions of detention;
- Psychological and moral torture caused by the permanent threat of execution.

#### Case Study 2

##### Execution by stoning in Iran

Jafar Kiani and Mokarrameh Ebrahimi were sentenced to death by stoning after being found guilty of adultery following an extra-marital relationship. In July 2007, after eleven years in prison, Jafar Kiani was executed in a village near the town of Takestan. His partner, Mokarrameh Ebrahimi, was freed in March 2008 following a significant mobilisation campaign.

In Iran executions are usually by hanging but sometimes by stoning; this method of execution is used for the offence of "adultery when married".

The stoning session is public. The prisoner is covered from head to toe in white clothing and buried (women up to their armpits and men up to their waists); a consignment of stones is delivered to the execution location and the civil servants in charge (sometimes, just citizens approved by the authorities) carry out the execution. If the prisoner manages to survive, he remains imprisoned for at least 15 years, but will not be executed.

Articles 102 and 104 of the Penal Code of the Islamic Republic of Iran precisely define the exercise of stoning:

"The stones used to inflict death by stoning must not be so large that the prisoner dies after receiving one or two. They must not be so small that they cannot be called stones. The average size is generally chosen to ensure that the crime is atoned through suffering".

Shadi Sadr, one of the co-founders of the Stop Stoning Forever Campaign and lawyer for Jafar Kiani and Mokarrameh Ebrahimi, reported these shocking facts:

"The stones were so large that they didn't even respect the conditions required to carry out such a sentence...Official reports...indicate that Jafar was still alive after the stoning but that one of his ears and his nose had been crushed and buried. When a medical examiner confirmed that he was still alive Mr X crushed his head with a large block of cement and killed him".

Source : Amnesty International

- Torture caused by the execution method: duration of death, suffering endured;
- Degrading treatment and humiliation caused by the public nature of stoning.

### Case Study 3

#### Execution of Angel Nieves Diaz by lethal injection in the United States

In 1979 Angel Nieves Diaz, a young Porto Rican immigrant in the United States, participated in a raid on a bar in Florida during which the manager was killed. There were no visual witnesses to the murder but in 1986 Angel Diaz, who had always declared his innocence, was found guilty and sentenced to death on the basis of the statements of an old girlfriend and another prisoner. On 13 December 2006 Angel Nieves Diaz was executed by lethal injection. This method of execution was introduced in Florida in 2000 to replace the electric chair. It involves three consecutive injections: first, an anaesthetic to suppress the pain; then a product which paralyses the muscles; and finally a chemical formula which provokes cardiac arrest.

Execution takes 34 minutes. According to witnesses, Diaz was still moving 24 minutes after the lethal injection, grimacing, apparently trying to speak, gasping for air. After 26 minutes his body violently jerked. When the cardiac monitors indicated that Diaz was still alive the team in charge of the execution decided to administer another lethal injection. More than half an hour after the start of the procedure a doctor, his face hidden by a blue hood, entered the execution room to check whether Diaz was still alive. He went out and came back a minute later, looked for vital signs in Angel Diaz and indicated that the execution was now complete.

Source : *Amnesty International*

### Extensions and variations

Is there any method of execution, which prohibits physical suffering?

### [ F ]

#### Ressources

##### – International texts:

##### On the prohibition of torture:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted on 16 December 1966, entered into force on 23 March 1976 (Article 7).
- Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted on 10 December 1984, entered into force on 26 June 1987.
- Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT), adopted in December 2002, entered into force on 22 June 2006 (introduction of a system of preventative visits to places of detention).

##### Compatibility of the death penalty and torture:

- See too ECHR Decision Soering v/R.U. of 7 July 1989

##### On the prohibition of the death penalty:

##### Limitation of application of the death penalty in international law

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted on 16 December 1966, entered into force on 23 March 1976 (Article 6: limit to the application of the death penalty)

##### Prohibition of the death penalty within the framework of optional or regional treaties.

- 2nd Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming to abolish the death penalty, adopted on 15 December 1989.
- Additional Protocol 6 to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), adopted by the Council of Europe on 1983
- Additional Protocol 13 to the ECHR, adopted by the Council of Europe in May 2002, entered into force on 1 July 2003

##### – Reports:

##### Compatibility of the death penalty with the prohibition of torture:

- Report by the Special Rapporteur on Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, Manfred Nowak, before the UN Human Rights Council, 14 January 2009, A/HRC/10/44 (<http://daccess-ods.un.org/access.nsf/Get?Open&DS=A/HRC/10/44&Lang=E>)

##### The death penalty in Japan:

- “The death penalty in Japan: a law of silence running counter to international trends”, report by the Fédération internationale des ligues des droits de l’Homme (FIDH), October 2008 (<http://www.fidh.org/The-law-of-silence-going-against>) (<http://www.fidh.org/La-loi-du-silence-a-contre-courant>)

##### Lethal execution:

- “So long as they die”, report by Human Rights Watch on lethal injection in the United States, 23 April 2006 (<http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2006/04/23/so-long-they-die>)
- “Execution by lethal injection: a quarter century of state poisoning”, report by Amnesty International, 4 October 2007 <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/POL30/021/2007>
- Stoning in Iran, Iran/Death penalty: A State Terror Policy, report by the Fédération internationale des ligues des droits de l’homme, April 2009 ([http://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/Rapport\\_Iran\\_final.pdf](http://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/Rapport_Iran_final.pdf))



[ **Activity c2** ]

# The Death Penalty and Discrimination

[ **A** ]

## **Summary**

The death penalty is applied discriminatorily as it often disproportionately affects the poorest, minorities, mentally ill and members of certain racial, ethnic and religious groups. Throughout the world it is applied disproportionately to the disadvantaged, and death sentences are imposed on people at the lower end of the social scale who would not face the death penalty if they had come from a more favoured sector of society. It is passed and applied arbitrarily. In some countries it is also a means of repression, a quick and brutal way of silencing political opposition.

[ **B** ]

## **Aims**

Encourage students to comprehend the discriminatory nature of the death penalty by understanding the definition of discrimination and using striking examples and statistics.

[ **C** ]

## **Age of the target audience**

14-16 years

[ **D** ]

## **Equipment and preparation**

- Definition of discrimination;
- Case studies from situations in two countries;
- Statistics.

[ **E** ]

## **E.Activity (simulation, observation of the reality, analysis of the reality, transformation of the reality, extensions and variations)**

- Lead a discussion on the box below by asking the following questions:

### **Definition**

#### **Discrimination**

Any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, ancestry, national or ethnic origin, language, gender, sexual orientation, wealth, religion or political opinion which aims for or results in the destruction or compromise of the recognition, enjoyment or exercise in equal conditions of human rights and fundamental freedoms in politics, economics, society and culture or in any other area of public life..

- Do you know of any persecuted minorities? (ethnic or religious)
- What are the rights to defence? What is the most important protection for immigrants? (Consular assistance: interpretation, explanation of the procedure and information on the charges made, access to defence, etc.)
- Poverty is also a reason for discrimination. Why are the poor over-represented on death row?

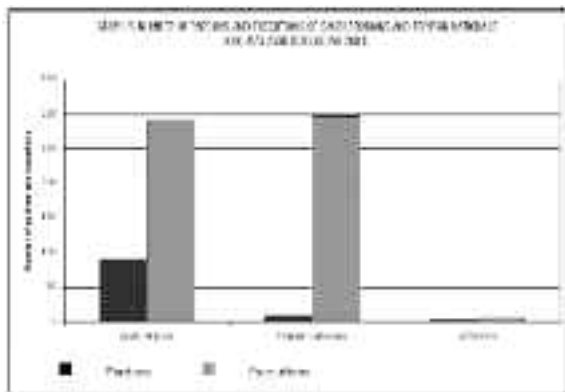
– Lead a discussion on the cases of two countries.

**Saudi Arabia: death by discrimination**

The Saudi authorities execute more than two people a week on average and nearly half these executions involve foreigners from poor and emerging nations (a disproportionate number given the composition of the population).

The accused, migrant workers without resources from developing nations in Africa and Asia, often do not have a lawyer to defend them and do not understand the procedure if it takes place in Arabic.

These foreigners have neither the money nor possibility to contact influential people such as the governmental authorities or tribal leaders, essential for obtaining a pardon.



Source: Amnesty International report (2008) *Affront To Justice: Death Penalty In Saudi Arabia Index: MDE 23/02/2008*

Quand des individus haut placés sont condamnés, c'est presque toujours par un pouvoir qui se sent menacé. Es tu d'accord ?

**[ F ] Ressources**

- Death Penalty Information Center : <http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/race-death-row-inmates-executed-1976#inmaterace>
- Amnesty International : <http://www.amnesty.org/fr/news-and-updates/report/saudi-arabia-executions-target-foreign-nationals-20081014>

**Discrimination in the American system**

Most prisoners in the United States are from ethnic minorities and prisoners on death row are no exception. Afro-Americans are by far the most affected: they represent nearly 42% of prisoners on death row but only 15% of the population.

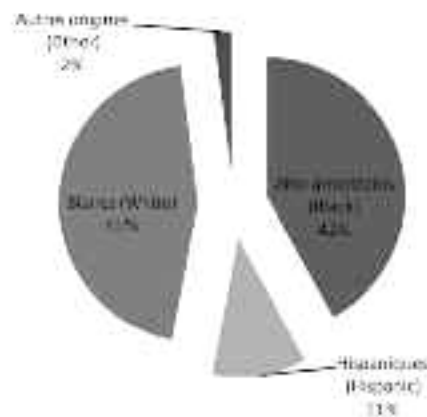
Population	1	2	3
Afro-Americans (Black)	1 376	41.6 %	12 %
Hispanic	365	11.0 %	15 %
White	1 489	45.0 %	68 %
Other	77	2.3 %	5 %

- 1 - Prisoners on death row
- 2 - Percentage of the number of prisoners sentenced to death
- 3 - Percentage of the total population

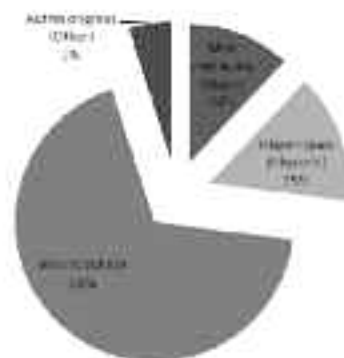
Source: NAACP-LDF "Death Row USA (July 1, 2008)"

**Ethnic statistics about the prisoners on death row in the US**

Répartition des prisonniers dans les couloirs de la mort



Répartition de la population totale





[ **Activity C3** ]

# The Death Penalty Applied to Juveniles

[ **A** ]

**Summary**

Applying the death penalty to juveniles is contrary to the rights of the Child. Protecting children implies protecting them from any act, which could damage their basic rights.

[ **B** ]

**Aims**

Amnesty International counted 46 executions of juveniles between 2001 and 2008 in 7 countries, which are party to the international Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), including Iran, which is way out in front with 29 juveniles executed. In a few other countries, children sentenced to capital punishment are still on death row. In the United States (which has still not ratified the CRC) some States were still executing juveniles until March 2005 when the Supreme Court declared that the punishment was unconstitutional.

Although the death penalty for juveniles is becoming relatively rare outside Iran, there are still ambiguous cases and problems where juveniles sentenced to death risk execution because their juvenile status cannot be proved due to a lack of civil status or any other tangible official documents. In other cases, those over 18 are sentenced to death for crimes committed when they were still under age. Finally, some countries renounce the death penalty for children but replace it with life imprisonment without parole, something which is also prohibited by the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

[ **C** ]

**Age of the target audience**

14-18 years

[ **D** ]

**Basic equipment**

With the adoption by the UN of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1966, the international community expressed its intention to prohibit the death penalty imposed for crimes committed by persons below eighteen years of age (...) (Article 6.5).

The prohibition was strengthened by Article 37 of the international Convention on the Rights of the Child:

*States Parties shall ensure that:*

- a) *No child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Neither capital punishment nor life imprisonment without possibility of release shall be imposed for offences committed by persons below eighteen years of age;*

**List of American States which judge juveniles as adults: (DPIC)**

- 16 and over (3 States) Connecticut, New York, North Carolina
- 17 and over (9 States) Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, South Carolina, Texas, Wisconsin

From 2000 to 2004 the United States executed nine juvenile delinquents. In March 2005 the Supreme Court declared that the death penalty for juveniles was contrary to the Constitution.

*Source : DPIC*

### The execution of Delara Darabi in Iran

In September 2003, Delara Darabi, then aged 17, and her friend Amir Hossein Sotoudeh (19) illegally entered the home of the cousin of Delara's father, Mahin (58) to commit robbery. Amir Hossein allegedly killed Mahin during the robbery. Delara Darabi initially "confessed" to the murder so that her friend could escape execution; according to her, he had claimed that as a juvenile she could not be sentenced to death. She subsequently retracted her "confession".

Delara Darabi was sentenced to death on 27 February 2005 but in January 2006 the Supreme Court concluded that there were "insufficiencies" in the file and returned the affair to a children's court in Rasht for her to be retried. Delara was again sentenced to death in June 2006. Amir Hossein Sotoudeh was sentenced to ten years imprisonment for complicity to murder. Both were sentenced to additional sentences of three years imprisonment with 50 lashes for theft and 20 lashes for "illicit relations". The capital sentence passed against Delara Darabi was confirmed on 16 January 2007 by the Supreme Court.

Amnesty International considers that the young woman did not receive a fair trial as the courts refused to examine elements after the judgement which proved, according to her lawyer, that she could not have committed the murder.

The Iranian authorities executed Delara Darabi on Friday, 1 May 2009 in the morning at the central prison in Rasht. This execution took place without the knowledge of the young woman's lawyer even though, legally, he should have been informed 48 hours in advance.

Since January 2005 Iran has carried out 26 of the 32 executions of juvenile delinquents across the world and in 2008 it was the only country which had ratified the international Convention on the Rights of the Child to have executed juveniles. According to Human Rights Watch, there are allegedly 130 prisoners on death row in Iran for crimes committed when they were under 18.

Sources : Amnesty International et Human Rights Watch

### [ E ]

#### Activity

**(simulation, observation of the reality, analysis of the reality, transformation of the reality, extensions and variations.**

#### What is a child?

According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier. (Article 1).

#### Why should children be protected?

The fundamental aim of protecting children is to ensure that all those responsible are aware of the task incumbent upon them and are able to acquit it.

#### Who should ensure the protection of children?

Parents, other adults, school, the State.

#### Why is executing an adult who committed a crime when he was a juvenile against the spirit of the treaty?

Do you think that children are aware of their actions? Can a child distinguish between good and evil to the same extent as an adult?

#### – Extensions and variations

- Drawing competition celebrating the 20th birthday of the international Convention on the Rights of the Child. Each pupil can illustrate the rights of children;

#### What do you think about this situation?

(the death penalty and the mentally disabled)

1992 Rickey Ray Rector was a mentally disabled young man. After his last meal he decided to keep his pudding for later when he came back from the execution chamber.

Source: Amnesty International

### [ F ]

#### Ressources

- <http://www.stopchildexecutions.com>
- Protection of the child: MP's guide, 2004, UIP and UNICEF
- The Millennium Goals launched by the UN: <http://www.un.org/french/millenniumgoals/>
- Somalia: Girl stoned was a child of 13: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/somalia-girl-stoned-was-child-13-20081031>
- DPIC: <http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/execution-juveniles-us-and-other-countries#agereqs>



[ **Activity C4** ]

# The Irreversible Nature of the Death Penalty and Legal Errors

[ **A** ]

## Summary

Once executed, prisoners sentenced to death cannot come back to life. Thus Human justice is fallible. Sometimes it recognises its mistakes too late.

Errors about guilt can depend on indirect elements: the talent of the lawyer, the political opinions of the accused, social status, ethnic origin, the severity or otherwise of the court, the appeals procedure or lack of in penal matters...

Prisoners in the world have been executed although their guilt was still a matter of doubts. Others have been exonerated after a court proved their innocence. In the US, in 2008, 4 new exonerees were freed from the death row above 120 other cases since 1975. The 4 men had stayed for more than 10 years in the death row.

[ **B** ]

## Aims

The dissuasive nature of the death penalty is not obvious as numerous statistics from countries which have already abolished the death penalty demonstrate. Resorting to the death penalty instigates the problem of legal error.

[ **C** ]

## Age of the target audience

14-18 years.

[ **D** ]

## Basic equipment

A few figures from Canada:

**1975:** homicide rate per 100,000 inhabitants: 3.09

**1976:** abolition of the death penalty

**1980:** homicide rate per 100,000 inhabitants: 2.19

**2002:** homicide rate per 100,000 inhabitants: 1.9

**2006:** homicide rate per 100,000 inhabitants: 1.9

*Sources Statistiques Canada*

**2000:** United States:

homicide rate per 100,000 inhabitants: 6.2

**2000:** Sweden:

homicide rate per 100,000 inhabitants: 1.2

**2000:** Japan:

homicide rate per 100,000 inhabitants: 0.5 (1.1 in 2001)

**2000:** Hong Kong:

homicide rate per 100,000 inhabitants: 0.56

[ **E** ]

## Activity

**(simulation, observation of the reality, analysis of the reality, transformation of the reality, extensions and variations)**

- What do these terms suggest for you: deterrence, dissuasion, threat to public order?
- Is the death penalty not an extremely excessive punishment considering that legal error is possible?
- Do you think the death penalty is deterrent?

## Is it dissuasive?

### – Extensions and variations

- The death penalty and legal errors: the sentencing of innocent people: access to DNA proof to demonstrate innocence
- The appeals procedure and the death penalty
- What differences can you see between application of the law in retentionist countries and abolitionist countries?

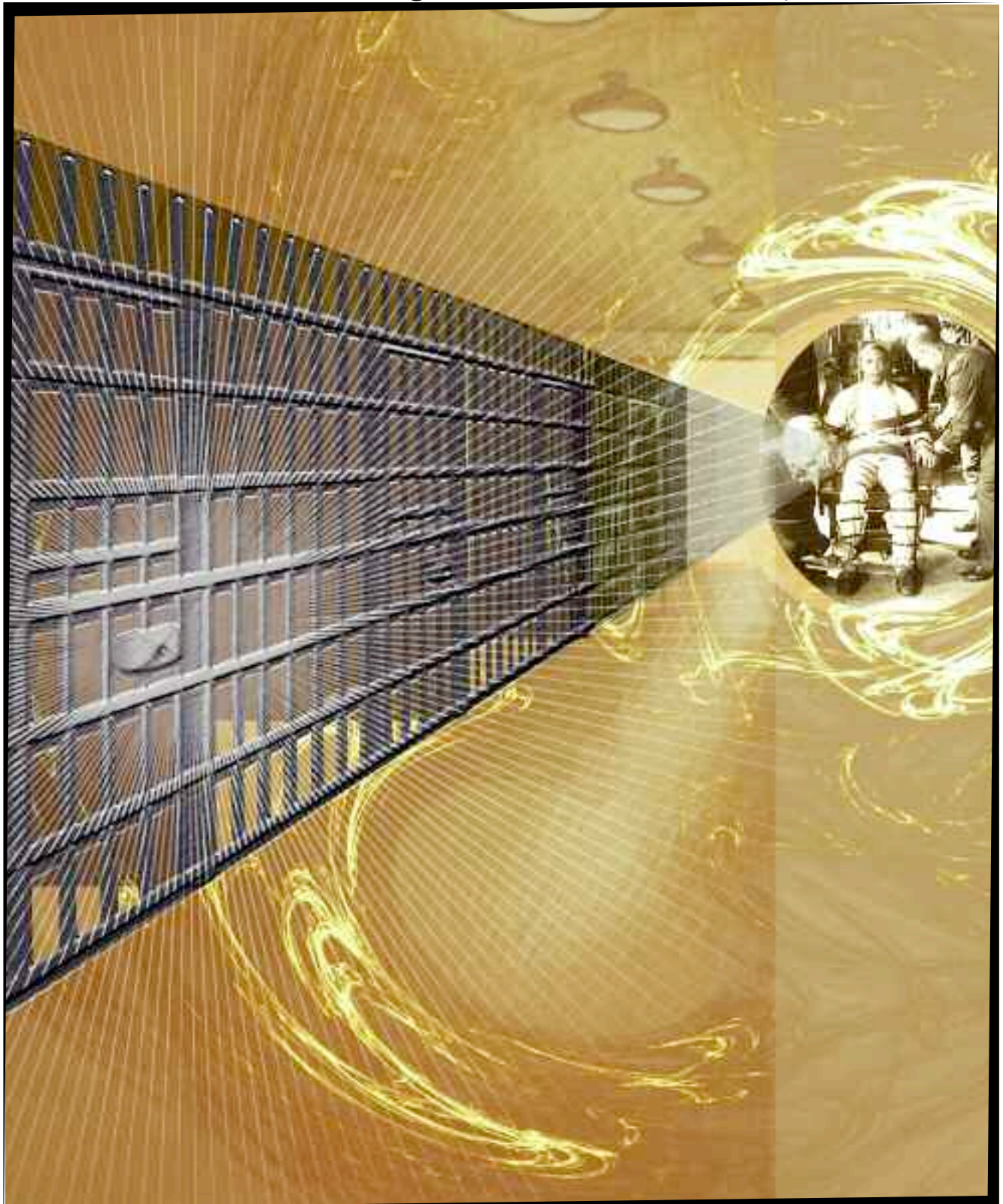
[ **F** ]

## Ressources

- <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidien/070718/t070718b-fra.htm>
- 2008 statistics:  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_countries\\_by\\_murder\\_rate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_murder_rate)
- Eurostat: delinquency and penal justice  
[http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY\\_OFFPUB/KS-SF-08-019/EN/KS-SF-08-019-EN.PDF](http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/cache/ITY_OFFPUB/KS-SF-08-019/EN/KS-SF-08-019-EN.PDF)

[ D ]

# Conditions of Detention (Methods of Execution, Mental Health, the Problem of Long Sentences, etc ;)





[ **Activity D1** ]

# Methods of Execution

[ **A** ]  
**Summary**

All methods of execution for capital punishment are cruel although Men tried to soften them through ages from the Talion principle to lethal injection.

[ **B** ]  
**Aims**

Capital punishment has long been considered necessary to re-establish social order damaged by crime. Offences are numerous: murder, kidnapping for enslavement, idolatry, witchcraft, not observing ritual laws, adultery, incest, sadism, bestiality, prostitution, apostasy and inventive and cruel procedures. The rise in the idea of tolerance has meant that ancient times marked by the fanaticism of some methods of execution have been put in perspective.

Today, many people consider the death penalty to be cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. It is therefore prohibited in international law.

[ **C** ]  
**Age of the target audience**

16-18 years

[ **D** ]  
**Basic equipment**

The first country to abolish the death penalty without then re-establishing it was Venezuela in 1863.

Extracts from literature, films, plays, etc.

[ **E** ]  
**Activity**  
**(simulation, observation of the reality, analysis of the reality, transformation of the reality, extensions and variations)**

Legal application of the death penalty constitutes physical punishment in the most severe form. Capital comes from the Latin word Caput, meaning "head". The death penalty has been applied in numerous ways over the centuries: crucifixion, immersion in boiling oil, impalement, quartering, being cut into pieces, etc.

Look for press cuttings in newspapers or on the Internet covering modern death sentences.

List the presentations to be made according to the various methods of execution of capital punishment across the world and throughout history.

Methods of execution are extremely varied. Some methods in particular, born out in history, were abandoned earlier than others because they were so cruel: being crushed (by an elephant), devoured by wildcats, bitten by a snake, hung, drawn and quartered, flung from a cliff (the Tarpeian Rock in Rome), covered in liquid metal, boiling oil, machines, etc.)

– **The most common methods of execution are:**

**Pyre:**  
Reserved for heretics and witches.

**Drowning:**  
Used because it was economical and practical.

**Electrocution:**  
Still exists in some American states.

**Hanging:**  
The most widely practiced method of execution in the world.

In 2008, some countries executed offenders by hanging: Bangladesh, Botswana, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, St Kitt & Nevis, Singapore and Sudan.

**Gassing:**

Prisoners are gassed to death in 5 American States.

**Decapitation:**

Still practiced in Saudi Arabia.

**Guillotine:**

Was adopted in France because of its rapidity, to reduce the suffering of prisoners and to underline the equality of all before the executioner. Decapitation was reserved for the nobility under the Ancien Régime.

**Stoning:**

Stoning is a particularly ancient method of execution. It enables the entire community to participate in carrying out the sentence. The involvement of an executioner is not strictly necessary. Still practiced in Iran.

Paragraph 119 of the Iranian Penal Code:

*The stones must not be so large that the prisoner dies with the first or second throw, nor so small that they cannot be called stones.*

**Firing squad:**

This kind of execution is used particularly in China and Vietnam. It is the most common method after hanging.

**Poison:**

In biology poisons are substances which provoke injuries, illnesses and death of organisms through a chemical reaction at molecular level. It is more usually connected with assassinations. Socrates was sentenced to death by the assembly of Athens for perverting youth during the 5th century BC.

**Lethal injection:**

Practiced in the United States since 1982, it also exists in China, Guatemala and Thailand. Although perceived to be a "soft" method of execution, studies have demonstrated that prisoners could experience intense suffering. That is why the American Supreme Court imposed a moratorium on executions from September 2007 to April 2008. This decision was broken after Baze versus Rees Case that considered lethal injection as the most human methods of execution .

**– Extensions and variations**

- Executions and Torture
- The efficacy of the death penalty
- The birth of modern debate on the death penalty with the publication of "Of Crimes and Punishments" by Cesare Beccaria (1764)
- The allegory of damaged social order can be found in the following mythical episodes: Cain and Abel, Habil and Qabil, Osiris and Seth, Shun and Yao, Romulus and Remus, etc.

**[ F ]****Ressources****– Plays:**

- Cain, Byron
- Prima dell'alba
- Dead Man Walking

**– Films:**

- Twelve Angry Men
- The Shawshank Redemption
- The Life of David Gale
- The Green Mile
- Dead Man Walking
- Ascenseur pour l'échafaud
- Dancer in the Dark
- Far from Heaven
- Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil
- Lacombe Lucien
- Une affaire de femmes

**– Report:**

- Death penalty: A State Terror Policy, FIDH, April 2009 ([http://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/Rapport\\_Iran\\_final.pdf](http://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/Rapport_Iran_final.pdf) )
- Stoning in Iran, Iran/Death penalty: A State Terror Policy, report by the Fédération internationale des ligues des droits de l'homme, April 2009 ([http://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/Rapport\\_Iran\\_final.pdf](http://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/Rapport_Iran_final.pdf))



[ **Activity D2** ]

# Mental Health and the Death Penalty

[ **A** ]

**Summary**

Death Row Syndrome is a medical term, which identifies the long period between the day of sentencing and execution which is as psychologically demanding as torture.

[ **B** ]

**Aims**

The death penalty is inhuman and degrading treatment. The situation of prisoners on death row is an attack on dignity.

[ **C** ]

**Age of the target audience**

14-18 years

[ **D** ]

**Basic equipment**

FIDH report on Japan

[ **E** ]

**Activity**

**(simulation, observation of the reality, analysis of the reality, transformation of the reality, extensions and variations)**

**How is the death penalty a danger for prisoners' mental health?**

**The case of Iwao Hakamada who went mad after 43 years on death row**

Hakamada Iwao suffers from psychological problems after spending more than 28 years in detention in isolation and living in constant fear of being executed.

He has been detained on death row since 1968. After an iniquitous trial, he was found guilty of the murder in 1966 of the director of the factory where he worked, his wife and two children. The members of the family were stabbed and their house set on fire. Hakamada Iwao "confessed" after being questioned by the police for

twenty days without the presence of a lawyer. He retracted this confession subsequently and declared during his trial that police officers had hit him and had threatened to force him to sign "confessions". He was found guilty and sentenced to death.

In 1980, Hakamada was locked up on death row in Japan and began to display psychological problems. In Japan prisoners sentenced to death are not authorised to speak to other prisoners, watch television or do activities or hobbies, which interest them. They are only told of their execution the same morning and their families are generally informed of their death only after the event. After decades in prison, he began to refuse to receive visitors. He no longer recognised either members of his own family or his lawyer and refused to see them. However, to date he has received no treatment. Imprisoned when he was 30, he has spent more than 42 years of his life behind bars

*Source : FIDH*

**– Extensions and variations**

The Hippocratic Oath is a traditional oath generally made by Western doctors before they begin practicing. Probably drawn up in the 4th Century BC, it is part of the Hippocratic Collection, traditionally attributed to the Greek doctor Hippocrates.

In what way is this oath against the death penalty?

*I will prescribe regimens for the good of my patients according to my ability and my judgment and never do harm to anyone. I will not give a lethal drug to anyone if I am asked, nor will I advise such a plan... But I will preserve the purity of my life and my arts.*

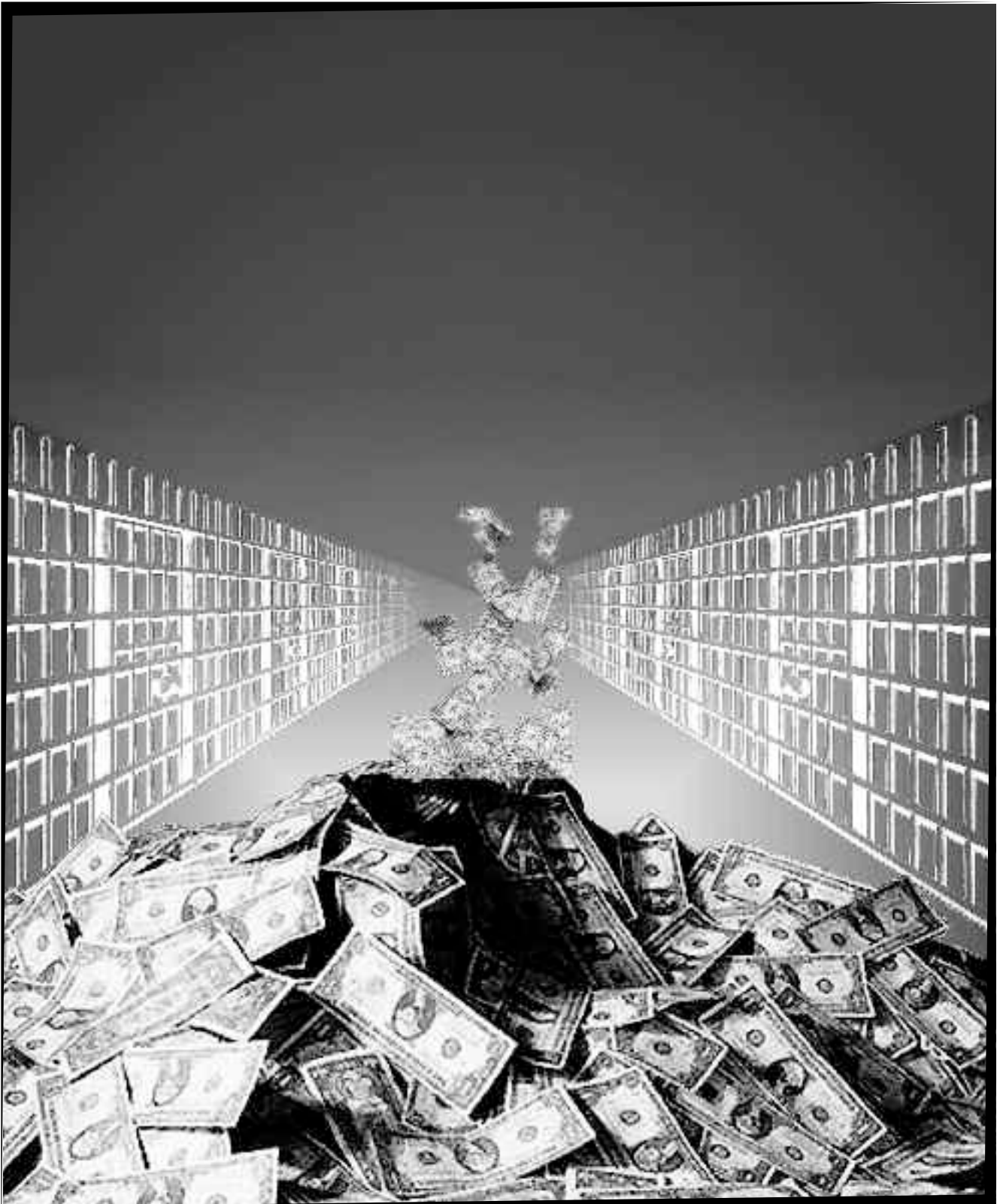
[ **F** ]

**Ressources**

- ECHR decision, Soering v/R.U. of 7 July 1989
- "The death penalty in Japan: a law of silence running counter to international trends", report by the Fédération internationale des ligues des droits de l'Homme (FIDH), October 2008 (<http://www.fidh.org/The-law-of-silence-going-against>)

[ E ]

## The Cost of the Death Penalty (special case of the United States)





[ **Activity E1** ]

# The Cost of the Death Penalty in the United States

[ **A** ]

## **Summary**

In the United States, the extraordinarily high cost of the death penalty, over and above the cost of the alternatives, has led the public, decision-makers (elected officials) and opinion leaders (news media) to question the wisdom and utility of capital punishment.

The death penalty is more expensive than permanent imprisonment at every stage: the trials, the appeals and housing on death row.

[ **B** ]

## **Aims**

The money used for the death penalty could probably be used for other ends such as strengthening teaching capabilities and improving detention conditions in prisons.

[ **C** ]

## **Age of the target audience**

16-18 years

[ **D** ]

## **Basic equipment**

Situation in California:

- The Hidden Death Tax: The Secret Costs of Seeking Execution in California, a report by the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California at [http://aclunc.org/issues/criminal\\_justice/death\\_penalty/the\\_hidden\\_death\\_tax\\_the\\_secret\\_costs\\_of\\_seeking\\_execution\\_in\\_california.shtml](http://aclunc.org/issues/criminal_justice/death_penalty/the_hidden_death_tax_the_secret_costs_of_seeking_execution_in_california.shtml)

- and the March 2009 update at [http://aclunc.org/issues/criminal\\_justice/death\\_penalty/updated\\_reports\\_california\\_still\\_the\\_highest\\_spender\\_on\\_the\\_death\\_penalty.shtml](http://aclunc.org/issues/criminal_justice/death_penalty/updated_reports_california_still_the_highest_spender_on_the_death_penalty.shtml)

- Report and Recommendations on the administration of the death penalty in California, June 2008, by the California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice, a bi-partisan body created by the state legislature: <http://ccfaj.org/rr-dp-official.html>

[ **E** ]

## **Activity**

**(simulation, observation of the reality, analysis of the reality, transformation of the reality, extensions and variations)**

The California Commission for the Fair Administration of Justice found that replacing the death penalty with the alternative of permanent incarceration (without possibility of release on parole) would save the state of California \$126 million per year.

With so many other economic needs, and particularly in these difficult financial times, what do you think of this economic decision?

In April 2009, the Colorado State House of Representatives voted to transfer funds used for the death penalty to the investigation of unsolved homicides (cold cases).

### **– Extensions and variations**

- Families of murder victims and families of death row prisoners: lack of services for all;
- Exonerees: many of the innocent released from prison, including death row, do not get compensation; aren't they entitled to basic services for health, education, job training? They would receive these services if they had been guilty and were released on parole;
- In the United States, death row inmates are on average 13 years on death row before being executed. In California, the trip to death row regularly exceeds 20 years;
- Do you not think that the argument of the cost could be used ill-advisedly?

[ **F** ]

## **Ressources**

- Can Californians afford to keep the death penalty? <http://www.sacbee.com/opinion/story/1866190.html>
- 'Dysfunctional' death penalty racks up 28-year, \$5-million tab And that's just for one case. <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-death18-2009may18,0,4043570.story>
- Death penalty ban bill clears House Narrow vote sends legislation to Senate, Denver Daily News (22.04.2009) <http://www.thedenverdailynews.com/article.php?aID=3999>
- Can Oregon afford the death penalty? Daily Astorian (23.04.2009) <http://www.dailyastorian.info/main.asp?SectionID=23&SubSectionID=392&ArticleID=60288&TM=64600.03>

# Death Penalty in the World in 2009

According to Amnesty International, in 2008, at least 2,390 people were known to have been executed in 25 countries and at least 8.864 people were sentenced to death in 52 countries around the world.

In 2008 were China (at least 1.718), Iran (at least 346), Saudi Arabia (at least 102), Pakistan (at least 36) and the United States of America (at least 37). Together these five countries carried out 93% of all executions carried out in 2008.

In some states the use of the death penalty remained shrouded in secrecy. In Belarus (4), China, North Korea (at least 15) and Mongolia (at least 1) executions were carried out in a secretive manner or without transparency.

25 countries proceeded to execution in 2008, whereas 52 countries pronounced at least 8.864 death sentences.

## As of September 2009

### **58 Countries retain the death penalty for ordinary crimes. (Retentionist)**

Afghanistan, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Botswana, Chad, China, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cuba, Dominica, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nigeria, North Korea, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Taiwan, Thailand, Trinidad And Tobago, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United States Of America, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe

### **Abolitionist for all crimes: 94**

Countries whose laws do not provide for the death penalty for any crime

### **Abolitionist for ordinary crimes only: 10**

Countries whose laws provide for the death penalty only for exceptional crimes such as crimes under military law or crimes committed in exceptional circumstances.

### **Abolitionist in practice: 35**

Countries which retain the death penalty for ordinary crimes such as murder but can be considered abolitionist in practice in that they have not executed anyone during the past 10 years.

### **Total abolitionist in law or practice: 139**

Source: Amnesty International :

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ACT50/003/2009/en>

# Resources for the Moratorium 2010 game to be distributed to students

**Algeria :** *de facto abolitionist country, Algeria has not executed any prisoners since 1993 and voted in favour of the two UN resolutions.* Algeria is the only member state of the Arab League to have voted in favour of the two resolutions.

**China :** *retentionist country, voted against the two UN resolutions.* China's representatives regret that the UN General Assembly must discuss such an issue (a vote on a moratorium) in plenary. They consider that the vote on the moratorium was obtained following significant pressure and disapprove of what they consider to be the imposition of the point of view of some States over others. According to them, it is up to each country, depending on its cultural and religious traditions and other factors, to decide whether and when the use of such a punishment is necessary. China is a major economic player in South Asia. Its role is increasingly significant in many African countries.

**United States:** *retentionist country, voted against the two UN resolutions.* The United States considers that the death penalty is a question of national law and is not part of international human rights law. The United States' direct area of influence is in Central America and the Caribbean.

**Belgium (presidency of the European Union):** *abolitionist country, co-sponsored and voted in favour of the two UN resolutions.* Holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the Belgian representatives organised meetings with representatives from other countries and encouraged them to vote in favour of this resolution. The European Union plays an important role in central Asia and Africa. Belgium is a founding member of the European Union.

**Guatemala:** *retentionist country, voted in favour of the 2007 resolution and abstained in 2008.* The country's position is uncertain.

**Jordan:** *retentionist country, voted against the 2007 resolution and abstained in 2008.* The country's position is uncertain.

**Mexico:** *abolitionist country, co-sponsored and voted in favour of the two resolutions.*

The representative from Mexico, speaking for the 87 delegations which co-authored this resolution, considers that this initiative opened a process of dialogue and compromise over a question of fundamental importance in the context of improving the framework of protecting human rights. This is the start of a process aiming for more active intervention by the UN on the issue of the death penalty. The aim is not to impose a point of view on others but to encourage a growing trend towards elimination of the death penalty. Mexico is very influential in Latin America.

**The Democratic Republic of the Congo:** *retentionist country, abstained in 2007 and absent in 2008.* The country's position is uncertain.

**Syria:** *retentionist country, voted against the two UN resolutions.* The representatives from Syria draw attention to the UN Charter which refers to the principal of non-interference in the sovereignty of States. The Syrian representatives consider that the 2007 and 2008 resolutions damage human dignity and ignore the rights of victims and the sovereignty of States by implying a change to States' political and legal systems. Finally, it returns to the argument according to which a group of States cannot impose its values and ideals on other States. Syria is an influential member of the Arab League.

## VARIATIONS

**The representatives from Antigua and Barbuda speak for 13 Caribbean states. These countries are strongly committed to a state of law and their countries have integrated the commitments contracted in conformity with the international instruments to which they are party into their legislation. In this context, the member States from the Caribbean find that the text of the resolution is unbalanced. The independence of legal systems is the protector of democracy.**

**Antigua and Barbuda** represent the retentionist countries in the Caribbean and in that respect have the means to put pressure on other countries in the Caribbean and Central America.

**Australia:** abolitionist country for all crimes since 1967, the country co-sponsored and voted in favour of the two UN resolutions. Australia plays a very important role in the economy of South East Asia and the Pacific.

**Bangladesh:** retentionist country, voted against the two UN resolutions.

The representatives from that country consider that the UN resolutions represent a growing trend in favour of abolition. But it considers that it is not the right time to ask for total abolition because this will require a reform of all countries' legal systems.

**Brazil:** abolitionist country, co-sponsored and voted in favour of the two UN resolutions.

Brazil is very influential in Latin America.

**Guinea Bissau :** abolitionist country, Guinea Bissau abstained in 2007 and co-sponsored and voted in favour of the 2008 resolution. The country's position is uncertain.

**Italy:** abolitionist country, co-sponsored and voted in favour of the two UN resolutions.

Italy was one of the first abolitionist countries in the world and proposed the first resolution in favour of a moratorium on executions. It is a founding member of the European Union.

**Kiribati:** abolitionist country, voted yes in 2007 and was absent in 2008.

The country's position is uncertain.

**Peru:** abolitionist country for ordinary crimes, was absent in 2007 and voted in favour of the resolution in 2008.

The country's position is uncertain.

**Singapore:** retentionist country, voted against the two UN resolutions.

Singapore proposed the verbal note addressed to the Secretary General of the UN on 11 January 2008 to indicate its disagreement with this resolution. This note was signed by 57 other States. The representatives of Singapore also declare that many countries did not vote in favour of this text which shows that there is no consensus on an issue which is naturally divisive. Each State has the sovereign right to choose its own system and this text will not change anything in Singapore.

Singapore has a very influential role in Asia.

**Somalia:** retentionist country, voted against the 2007 resolution and abstained in 2008.

The country's position is uncertain.

Somalia has experienced persistent instability, provoked by a civil war, for more than 20 years.

### **Amnesty International**

Amnesty International (AI) considers that the death penalty is the leading cruel, inhuman and degrading sanction.

There is no valid scientific evidence to support that the death penalty deters crime more effectively than other punishments.

The worldwide movement of people have more than 2.2 million members and subscribers in more than 150 countries and regions.

*Target countries:*

-Democratic Republic of Congo

-Guatemala

-VARIATION Peru

-VARIATION Kiribati

### **Penal Reform International**

Penal Reform International (PRI) respects the right to life as explicitly recognised in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and is opposed to all legal and extra-judicial executions under any circumstances – without consideration of the guilt or innocence of the person.

PRI is particularly well-established in the Arab world and Central Asia.

*Target countries:*

-Algeria

-Jordan

### **Fédération internationale des ligues des Droits de l'Homme**

In its research the Fédération internationale des ligues des Droits de l'Homme (FIDH) has demonstrated that the death penalty is universally applied unfairly and discriminatorily, that it is passed in conditions which are incompatible with the principles of a fair trial and that it is a form of torture which is incompatible with the right to respect human dignity.

The FIDH today brings together 155 leagues in 100 countries. It coordinates and supports their action and provides support at an international level.

*Target countries:*

-Jordan

-VARIATION Guinea Bissau

### **Fédération internationale de l'action des chrétiens contre la torture**

The Fédération Internationale de l'Action des Chrétiens pour l'Abolition de la Torture (FIACAT) focuses its work on Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with the aim of ensuring that no one is subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and punishment – including capital executions.

It groups together 30 national ACAT associations over four continents.

*Target countries:*

-Guatemala

-Catholic countries in Africa and Latin America

# The Members of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

*The alphabetic list of the 96 members is updated on 22 July 2009*

## **(Amnesty International, International Secretariat**

(London, United Kingdom)

- Asunta Cavaller (acavalle@amnesty.org)
- Piers Bannister (pbannist@amnesty.org)

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