
amnesty international

The Death Penalty List of Abolitionist and Retentionist Countries

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More than half the countries in the world have abolished the death penalty in law or practice.

Attached is a list of countries, indicating whether or not their laws provide for the death penalty. For abolitionist countries, information is also given, where available, on the date of abolition and the date of the last execution carried out; and for countries which have abolished the death penalty for all crimes, the date when it was abolished for ordinary offences if this was done before. (The date given for abolition is normally the date when the decision to abolish the death penalty was taken, but if that decision only came into effect several years later, the latter date is given.)

Also attached is a list of countries which have abolished the death penalty in law since 1976. It shows that in recent years, an average of two countries a year have abolished the death penalty in law or, having done so for ordinary offences, have gone on to abolish it for all offences.

The number of abolitionist and retentionist countries is now as follows:

Abolitionist for all crimes	68	
Abolitionist for ordinary crimes only	14	
Abolitionist <u>de facto</u>	23	
Total abolitionist in law or practice		105
Retentionist		90

The countries are designated as follows. **Abolitionist for all crimes** are those countries and territories whose laws do not provide for the death penalty for any crimes; **abolitionist for ordinary crimes only** are those whose laws provide for the death penalty only for exceptional crimes such as crimes under military law or crimes committed in exceptional circumstances such as wartime; **abolitionist de facto** are those which retain the death penalty for ordinary crimes but can be considered abolitionist in practice in that they have not executed anyone during the past 10 years or more, or have made an international commitment not to carry out executions; **retentionist** are those which retain and use the death penalty for ordinary crimes. (Most retentionist countries are known to have carried out executions during the past 10 years. On some countries Amnesty International has no record of executions but is unable to ascertain whether or not executions have in fact been carried out. Several retentionist countries have carried out executions in the past 10 years but have since instituted moratoria on executions.)

1. ABOLITIONIST FOR ALL CRIMES

Abbreviations: **Date (A)** = date of abolition for all crimes; **Date (AO)** = date of abolition for ordinary crimes; **Date (last ex.)** = date of last execution; **K** = date of last known execution; **Ind.** = no executions since independence

Country	Date(A)	Date(AO)	Date(last ex.)
ANDORRA	1990		1943
ANGOLA	1992		
AUSTRALIA	1985	1984	1967
AUSTRIA	1968	1950	1950
AZERBAIJAN	1998		1993
BELGIUM	1996		1950
BULGARIA	1998		1989
CAMBODIA	1989		
CANADA	1998	1976	1962
CAPE VERDE	1981		1835
COLOMBIA	1910		1909
COSTA RICA	1877		
CROATIA	1990		
CZECH REPUBLIC	1990		
DENMARK	1978	1933	1950
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	1966		
ECUADOR	1906		
ESTONIA	1998		1991
FINLAND	1972	1949	1944
FRANCE	1981		1977
GEORGIA	1997		1994K
GERMANY	1987		
GREECE	1993		1972

Country	Date(A)	Date(AO)	Date(last ex.)
GUINEA-BISSAU	1993		1986K
HAITI	1987		1972K
HONDURAS	1956		1940
HUNGARY	1990		1988
ICELAND	1928		1830
IRELAND	1990		1954
ITALY	1994	1947	1947
KIRIBATI			Ind.
LIECHTENSTEIN	1987		1785
LITHUANIA	1998		1995
LUXEMBOURG	1979		1949
MACEDONIA (former Yug. Rep.)			
MARSHALL ISLANDS			Ind.
MAURITIUS	1995		1987
MICRONESIA (Federated States)			Ind.
MOLDOVA	1995		
MONACO	1962		1847
MOZAMBIQUE	1990		1986
NAMIBIA	1990		1988K
NEPAL	1997	1990	1979
NETHERLANDS	1982	1870	1952
NEW ZEALAND	1989	1961	1957
NICARAGUA	1979		1930
NORWAY	1979	1905	1948
PALAU			
PANAMA			1903K
PARAGUAY	1992		1928

Country	Date(A)	Date(AO)	Date(last ex.)
POLAND	1997		1988
PORTUGAL	1976	1867	1849K
ROMANIA	1989		1989
SAN MARINO	1865	1848	1468K
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE	1990		Ind.
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	1990		
SLOVENIA	1989		
SOLOMON ISLANDS		1966	Ind.
SOUTH AFRICA	1997	1995	1991
SPAIN	1995	1978	1975
SWEDEN	1972	1921	1910
SWITZERLAND	1992	1942	1944
TUVALU			Ind.
UNITED KINGDOM	1988	1973	1964
URUGUAY	1907		
VANUATU			Ind.
VATICAN CITY STATE	1969		
VENEZUELA	1863		

2. ABOLITIONIST FOR ORDINARY CRIMES ONLY

Abbreviations: **Date (AO)** = date of abolition for ordinary crimes; **Date (last ex.)** = date of last execution; **K** = date of last known execution; **Ind.** = no executions since independence

Country	Date(AO)	Date(last ex.)
ARGENTINA	1984	
BOLIVIA	1997	1974
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA	1997	
BRAZIL	1979	1855
COOK ISLANDS		
CYPRUS	1983	1962
EL SALVADOR	1983	1973K
FIJI	1979	1964
ISRAEL	1954	1962
LATVIA	1999	1996
MALTA	1971	1943
MEXICO		1937
PERU	1979	1979
SEYCHELLES		Ind.

3. ABOLITIONIST DE FACTO

Abbreviations: **Date (last ex.)** = date of last execution; **K** = date of last known execution;
Ind. = no executions since independence

Country	Date(last ex.)
ALBANIA	
BERMUDA	1977
BHUTAN	1964K
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	1957K
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	1981
CONGO (Republic)	1982
COTE D'IVOIRE	
DJIBOUTI	Ind.
GAMBIA	1981
GRENADA	1978
MADAGASCAR	1958K
MALDIVES	1952K
MALI	1980
NAURU	Ind.
NIGER	1976K
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	1950
SENEGAL	1967
SRI LANKA	1976
SURINAME	1982
TOGO	
TONGA	1982
TURKEY	1984
WESTERN SAMOA	Ind.

4. RETENTIONIST

AFGHANISTAN
ALGERIA
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
ARMENIA
BAHAMAS
BAHRAIN
BANGLADESH
BARBADOS
BELARUS
BELIZE
BENIN
BOTSWANA
BURKINA FASO
BURUNDI
CAMEROON
CHAD
CHILE
CHINA
COMOROS
CONGO (Democratic Republic)
CUBA
DOMINICA
EGYPT
EQUATORIAL GUINEA
ERITREA
ETHIOPIA
GABON
GHANA
GUATEMALA
GUINEA
GUYANA
INDIA
INDONESIA
IRAN
IRAQ
JAMAICA
JAPAN
JORDAN
KAZAKSTAN
KENYA
KUWAIT
KYRGYZSTAN
LAOS
LEBANON
LESOTHO
LIBERIA
LIBYA
MALAWI
MALAYSIA
MAURITANIA
MONGOLIA
MOROCCO
MYANMAR
NIGERIA
NORTH KOREA
OMAN
PAKISTAN
PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY
PHILIPPINES
QATAR
RUSSIAN FEDERATION
RWANDA
SAINT CHRISTOPHER & NEVIS
SAINT LUCIA
SAINT VINCENT & GRENADINES
SAUDI ARABIA
SIERRA LEONE
SINGAPORE
SOMALIA
SOUTH KOREA
SUDAN
SWAZILAND
SYRIA
TAIWAN
TAJIKISTAN
TANZANIA
THAILAND
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
TUNISIA
TURKMENISTAN
UGANDA
UKRAINE
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
UZBEKISTAN
VIET NAM
YEMEN
YUGOSLAVIA (Federal Republic)
ZAMBIA
ZIMBABWE

COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE ABOLISHED THE DEATH PENALTY SINCE 1976

- 1976: PORTUGAL abolished the death penalty for all crimes. CANADA abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes.
- 1978: DENMARK abolished the death penalty for all crimes. SPAIN abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes.
- 1979: LUXEMBOURG, NICARAGUA and NORWAY abolished the death penalty for all crimes.
BRAZIL, FIJI and PERU abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes.
- 1981: FRANCE and CAPE VERDE abolished the death penalty for all crimes.
- 1982: The NETHERLANDS abolished the death penalty for all crimes.
- 1983: CYPRUS and EL SALVADOR abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes.
- 1984: ARGENTINA abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes.
- 1985: AUSTRALIA abolished the death penalty for all crimes.
- 1987: HAITI, LIECHTENSTEIN and the GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (1) abolished the death penalty for all crimes.
- 1989: CAMBODIA, NEW ZEALAND, ROMANIA and SLOVENIA (2) abolished the death penalty for all crimes.
- 1990: ANDORRA, CROATIA (2), the CZECH AND SLOVAK FEDERAL REPUBLIC (3), HUNGARY, IRELAND, MOZAMBIQUE, NAMIBIA and SAO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE abolished the death penalty for all crimes. NEPAL abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes.
- 1992: ANGOLA, PARAGUAY and SWITZERLAND abolished the death penalty for all crimes.
- 1993: GREECE, GUINEA-BISSAU and HONG KONG (4) abolished the death penalty for all crimes.
- 1994: ITALY abolished the death penalty for all crimes.
- 1995: MAURITIUS, MOLDOVA and SPAIN abolished the death penalty for all crimes. SOUTH AFRICA abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes.
- 1996: BELGIUM abolished the death penalty for all crimes.

1997: GEORGIA, NEPAL, POLAND and SOUTH AFRICA abolished the death penalty for all crimes. BOLIVIA and BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes.

1998: AZERBAIJAN, BULGARIA, CANADA, ESTONIA LITHUANIA and the UNITED KINGDOM abolished the death penalty for all crimes.

1999: LATVIA (5) abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes only.

Notes:

1. In 1990 the German Democratic Republic became unified with the Federal Republic of Germany, where the death penalty had been abolished in 1949.

2. Slovenia and Croatia abolished the death penalty while they were still republics of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The two republics became independent in 1991.

3. In 1993 the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic divided into two states, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

4. In 1996 Hong Kong was returned to Chinese rule as a special administrative region of China. Amnesty International understands that Hong Kong will remain abolitionist.

5. In 1999 the Latvian parliament voted to ratify Protocol No. 6 to the European Convention on Human Rights, abolishing the death penalty for peacetime offences.