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# amnesty international

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## RATIFICATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL TREATIES ON THE DEATH PENALTY

MARCH 1999

AI INDEX: ACT 50/03/99

DISTR: SC/DP

The community of nations has adopted three international treaties providing for the abolition of the death penalty. One is of worldwide scope; the other two are regional.

The **Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty**, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1989, provides for the total abolition of the death penalty but allows states parties to retain the death penalty in time of war if they make a reservation to that effect at the time of ratifying or acceding to the Protocol.

**Protocol No. 6 to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms ["European Convention on Human Rights"] concerning the abolition of the death penalty**, adopted by the Council of Europe in 1982, provides for the abolition of the death penalty in peacetime; states parties may retain the death penalty for crimes "in time of war or of imminent threat of war".

The **Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights to Abolish the Death Penalty**, adopted by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States in 1990, provides for the total abolition of the death penalty but allows states parties to retain the death penalty in wartime if they make a reservation to that effect at the time of ratifying or acceding to the Protocol.

The following table shows parties and signatories to the three treaties. (Signature indicates an intention to become a party at a later date.)

**STATES PARTIES AND SIGNATORIES TO INTERNATIONAL TREATIES  
PROVIDING FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY**  
(as of March 1999)

<b>INTERNATIONAL TREATY</b>	<b>STATES WHICH HAVE SIGNED BUT NOT YET RATIFIED</b>	<b>STATES PARTIES</b>
Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty	Bulgaria, Honduras, Nicaragua, Slovak Republic (Total: 4)	Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Portugal, Romania, Seychelles, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Uruguay, Venezuela (Total: 37)
Protocol No. 6 to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms [“European Convention on Human Rights”] concerning the abolition of the death penalty	Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Ukraine, United Kingdom (Total: 5)	Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland (Total: 30)
Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights to Abolish the Death Penalty	Nicaragua (Total: 1)	Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Panama, Uruguay, Venezuela (Total: 6)