



ADPAN NEWSLETTER NO.1 January - March 2010

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INTRODUCTION

This ADPAN Newsletter is issued quarterly and includes significant developments and events in the region and elsewhere. It also includes media reports considered of interest to ADPAN noting action undertaken by ADPAN where relevant. These media reports are a distillation of some of the key press reports on the death penalty which are sent regularly each week.

CONTENTS

- ❖ 4th World Congress against the Death Penalty
- ❖ Growth of ADPAN
- ❖ E-News: January – March 2010

4th WORLD CONGRESS AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY, 24-26 FEBRUARY 2010

The 4th World Congress against the Death Penalty was organized by the Ensemble Contre la Peine de Mort (EPCM) in Geneva. ADPAN members took part. The Congress was attended by over 1,700 participants from around the world. Elizabeth Zitrin from the World Coalition against the Death Penalty opened the Congress.

Young and old spoke of the importance to continue the struggle for abolition. "Speaking out against the death penalty is a moral obligation, a permanent duty. As long as human beings are hanged, gassed, poisoned and shot in this cruel world, we must know no rest". These words came from the former French Minister of Justice, M. Robert Badinter, who has been instrumental in bringing about abolition in France and in Europe. Death row prisoners, family victims, defence lawyers and NGOs and representatives from IGOs contributed their own individual testimonies.

Plenary and roundtable discussions took place on different themes and topics over the two days of the Congress.

"Kids against the Death Penalty", whose family members have been directly affected by the death penalty spoke about "we are the future". In a symbolic gesture the final Declaration of the Congress was handed to them to carry on the campaign for abolition.

ADPAN NEWSLETTER NO.1 January - March 2010

A roundtable discussion on *Asia, the Legal Road to Moratorium and Abolition* was chaired by BikramJeet Batra, **Amnesty International** Campaigner on India. Other panellists included ADPAN members, Lin Hsinyi, Director of the **Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty** and Bhatara Ibnu Rez from **Imparsial** (Indonesia).

ADPAN also held an Informal meeting on 23 February attended by 24 participants. New members were welcomed from Bangladesh, Japan, Pakistan Sri Lanka and Taiwan and the Asia Pacific Youth Network, (APYN). The meeting discussed developments on the death penalty in Asia and the work of ADPAN. A short report of the meeting will be sent shortly.

The full World Congress report will be available in June from <http://www.abolition.fr/ecpm/english/congres.php?art=693&subj=208>

GROWTH OF ADPAN

ADPAN's membership is on the increase. It has doubled since it was launched on World Day against the Death Penalty in 2006. In 2006, ADPAN had 23 members and the network has grown to almost 50. Members representing NGO's, civil society groups and individual activists come from 23 countries: Australia, Bangladesh, Fiji, France, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea (South), Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Tonga, UK, USA. New members have joined this year from Australia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and Thailand.

ADPAN NEWSLETTER NO.1

January - March 2010

AFGHANISTAN

Outcry in Kabul over Afghans on Death Row in Iran

There are 5,630 Afghan prisoners in prisons across the Islamic Republic of Iran. 3,000 of these have been sentenced to death.

22/03/10, *Radio Free Europe*

http://www.rferl.org/content/Outcry_In_Kabul_Over_Afghans_On_Death_Row_In_Iran/1990287.html

AUSTRALIA

Confront Obama over death penalty: MP

A Labor backbencher, John Murphy, says Australia should be leading a global effort to end the death penalty. Mr Murphy wants Prime Minister Kevin Rudd to raise the United States' ongoing use of the death penalty with President Barack Obama when he visits next month.

22/02/10, *AAP*

<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-national/confront-obama-over-death-penalty-mp-20100222-orua.html>

No death penalty, no shades of grey

The Death Penalty Abolition Bill debated in the Federal Parliament is the most important initiative on the death penalty for decades. If passed, it will block any state attempt to bring back capital punishment.

02/03/10, *Sydney Morning Herald*

<http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/politics/no-death-penalty-no-shades-of-grey-20100301-pdgo.html>

Passage of Legislation to Prohibit Torture and the Death Penalty

Attorney-General, Robert McClelland, has welcomed the passage of legislation through Parliament of the Crimes Legislation Amendment (Torture Prohibition and Death Penalty Abolition) Bill 2009 - which amends the Commonwealth Death Penalty Abolition Act 1973 - to extend the application of the current Commonwealth prohibition on the death penalty to State laws.

11/03/10, *Asia Death Penalty*

<http://asiadeathpenalty.blogspot.com/2010/03/australia-laws-passed-to-outlaw-death.html>

BANGLADESH

Bangladesh executes 411 people since 1971: official

The authorities last month hanged five army officers convicted of killing the country's independence leader, taking the number of executions since 1971 to 411.

14/02/10, *AFP*

<http://nodeathpenalty.santegidio.org/news.aspx?ln=en&id=14&n=13981>

See: ADPAN email 03/10, 25 January 2010, *Urgent Appeals – China, Bangladesh; TAEDP: Staving Off the Executioner: Taiwan's Unofficial Moratorium; UA: Five at risk of execution in Bangladesh*

HC declares mandatory death penalty unconstitutional

The High Court has declared that the mandatory death penalty is unconstitutional.

03/03/10, *New Nation*

<http://nation.ittefaq.com/issues/2010/03/03/news0073.htm>

ADPAN NEWSLETTER NO.1

January - March 2010

CHINA

Beijing Bites: Lethal execution officers ready

Lethal injection will replace shooting as the main method of execution for Beijing.

26/01/10, *China Daily*

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/cndy/2010-01/26/content_9375555.htm

China sentences four more to death for Urumqi riot

A Chinese court sentenced four more people to death for their part in ethnic rioting in July last year in Urumqi, the capital of the Xinjiang region. This brings the number of death sentences for the rioting to at least 26, of which at least nine have already been carried out.

26/01/10, *Reuters*

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKTRE60P3HM20100126>

China issues guidelines to limit death penalty use

China's Supreme People's Court (SPC) has issued guidelines for courts nationwide to handle criminal cases with a policy of "justice tempered with mercy," stressing that death penalty use be limited.

09/02/10, *Xinhua News Agency*

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/china/2010-02/09/c_13169980.htm

China high court stresses 'mercy' in death penalty

China's highest court has issued new guidelines on the death penalty that instruct lower courts to limit its use to a small number of "extremely serious" cases.

10/02/10, *AP*

http://articles.sfgate.com/2010-02-09/world/17872404_1_death-sentences-death-penalty-china-executes-more-people

Loss of support for China's death penalty?

Dietrich Oberwitter at Germany's Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law says his study on public support for the death penalty in China was the first major, systematic population survey. According to its results, which were released in October, 2009, general support for capital punishment in China is only around 58 percent.

23/02/10, *Deutsche Welle*

<http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,5278377,00.html>

The death penalty: A question of human rights

Feature on the history of the abolition movement within the context of the 4th World Congress Against the Death Penalty being held in Geneva.

24/02/10, *Deutsche Welle*

<http://www.dw-world.de/dw/article/0,,5281429,00.html>

China not clear over number of Uighur executions

China has so far convicted 198 people for involvement in ethnic violence witnessed during the Urumqi riots last July, with more sentences to follow. Nur Berkri, chairman of the Xinjiang region, refused to say how many defendants had been executed or sentenced to death.

07/03/10, *World Bulletin*

http://www.worldbulletin.net/news_detail.php?id=55149

ADPAN NEWSLETTER NO.1 January - March 2010

Nigerian sentenced to death for drug dealing

Osonwa Okey Noberts, 37, a Nigerian man, became the first foreigner in the southern manufacturing city of Guangzhou to receive a death sentence for drug trafficking.

11/03/10, *China Daily*

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2010-03/11/content_9570200.htm

Official executed for embezzling public funds

Li Shubiao, 46, a senior official in Chenzhou city, was executed for embezzling 120 million yuan from the government subsidy for housing.

26/03/10, *China Daily*

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2010-03/26/content_9649018.htm

INDIA

Poverty could mitigate crime, even murder: SC

The Supreme Court ruled that the economic status of a murder convict needs to be taken into account to determine whether he should be sentenced to death, even in respect of offences falling into the "rarest of rare" category.

09/02/10, *Times of India*

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Poverty-could-mitigate-crime-even-murder-SC/articleshow/5549996.cms>

Court: socio-economic situation, a factor for commuting death penalty

Long prison sentences and socio-economic factors leading to crime are relevant when considering mitigating circumstances for commuting death sentences to life imprisonment.

10/02/10, *The Hindu*

<http://www.thehindu.com/2010/02/10/stories/2010021060221200.htm>

Death to hijackers?

Editorial argues that the government's decision to make hijacking punishable by death is long overdue.

22/03/10, *Daily News and Analysis*

<http://www.dnaindia.com/mobile/report.php?n=1361839>

Death Penalty Fails to Stop Honour Killings

An Indian court decision recently sentenced five people, found guilty of 'honour killing' in 2007, to death. The verdict has been reported as an attempt to curb the rise in honour killing in rural Indian villages dominated by the panchayat system, where hundreds, mostly women, are killed annually.

31/03/10, *Bernama*

http://findarticles.com/p/news-articles/bernama-malaysian-national-news-agency/mi_8082/is_20100331/death-penalty-fails-stop-honour/ai_n53037821/

India to appeal UAE death sentences

Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs, Vayalar Ravi, has said that the Indian Government will appeal the death sentences handed down to 17 Indians in the UAE over the killing of a Pakistani man. The judgment is thought to be the largest number of people sentenced to death at one time in the UAE.

31/03/10, *Arabian Business*

<http://www.arabianbusiness.com/584959-india-to-appeal-uae-death-sentences>

ADPAN NEWSLETTER NO.1 January - March 2010

See ADPAN e-mail 10/10, 26 April 2010, *United Arab Emirates – 17 Indians Sentenced to Death After Unfair Trials and Torture*; UA: *17 Indians Tortured, Sentenced To Death*

AI Statement: *UAE must investigate allegations of torture of Indian men on death row*

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/uae-must-investigate-allegations-torture-indian-men-death-row-2010-04-23>

INDONESIA

Repeal Indonesia's Death Penalty: Rights Group

In its latest death penalty report, ADPAN member, Imparsial, expressed concerns over the government's reluctance to abolish the death penalty.

06/01/10, *Jakarta Globe*

<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/news/repeal-indonesias-death-penalty-rights-group/351279>

Death Row Appeals Need Time Limit: AGO

The Supreme Court needs to set a firm limit on the amount of time death row inmates have to initiate a judicial review of a conviction because it is frequently used to delay executions, the attorney general has argued.

07/02/10, *Jakarta Globe*

<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/national/death-row-appeals-need-time-limit-ago/357338>

Bali Nine sweat on death penalty inside Kerobokan Jail

Interviews with members of the Bali Nine, about the prospect of the death penalty and their life in the Kerobokan Jail where eight of them are imprisoned.

26/03/10, *Courier Mail*

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/national/bali-nine-sweat-on-death-penalty-inside-kerobokan-jail/story-e6freooo-1225846147053>

No execution in 2009; but 98 convicts still on death row

Following the publication of Amnesty International's annual report on the death penalty, human rights activists welcomed the fact that Indonesia is the only Southeast Asian country that did not carry out the death penalty in 2009. Amnesty International's Indonesia researcher, and ADPAN members, KONTRAS and Imparsial, called on the government to go further and abolish the death penalty.

31/03/10, *Jakarta Post*

<http://deathpenaltynews.blogspot.com/2010/03/indonesia-no-execution-in-2009-but-98.html>

JAPAN

Record 85% favour death penalty

The percentage of people in favour of the death penalty has reached a record high, with 85.6 percent of survey respondents saying the death penalty is "unavoidable," according to a government poll.

07/02/10, *Japan Times*

<http://deathpenaltynews.blogspot.com/2010/02/japan-record-85-favor-death-penalty.html>

Most Potential Lay Judges Are Ok With Death Penalty: Amnesty Poll

Amnesty International Japan took a street poll in the Shibuya district of Tokyo asking people whether they would be prepared to hand down the death sentence if selected as a lay judge, and most indicated they would.

24/02/10, *Japan Times*

<http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20100224f3.html>

ADPAN NEWSLETTER NO.1 January - March 2010

Gov't endorses bill to abolish statute of limitations for murder

The government has approved a bill to abolish the statute of limitations on crimes punishable by death. The revision to the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Penal Code will be submitted to the current Diet session.

12/03/10, *Mainichi Daily News*

<http://mdn.mainichi.jp/mdnnews/news/20100312p2g00m0fp004000c.html>

MALAYSIA

20-year-old youth escapes the gallows

A 20-year-old convicted of murder had his death sentence overturned as he was juvenile at the time of the crime.

13/03/10, *Star – Malaysia*

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2010/3/13/courts/5858454&sec=courts>

MONGOLIA

Mongolia president says no to death penalty

Mongolia's president, Tsakhia Elbegdorj, announced an official moratorium on executions, a key step on the path to the abolition of the death penalty. The President of Mongolia had commuted the death sentence of at least 3 people in 2009.

14/01/10, *AP*

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/feedarticle/8898553>

See ADPAN email 02/10, 14 Jan 2010, *Mongolia President declares a Moratorium*

Mongolian president calls for the abolition of the death penalty

Further coverage of Mongolia's moratorium on the death penalty.

15/01/10, *AsiaNews*

<http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Mongolian-president-calls-for-the-abolition-of-the-death-penalty-17358.html>

Mongolia to abolish the death penalty

Further coverage of Mongolia's moratorium on the death penalty

15/01/10, *Times – London*

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/asia/article6989156.ece>

UN hails Mongolia's death penalty moratorium

UN human rights chief, Navi Pillay, hailed the decision by Mongolia's President to introduce a moratorium on the death penalty, saying it sets a "leadership example in Asia."

15/01/10, *AFP*

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hB_fdznZX19sk8yw0NaGE-ILMhnA

Mongolia Moratorium on Executions Lauded

Amnesty International welcomed Mongolia's moratorium on the death penalty and urged other countries in the region to follow suit.

18/01/10, *UPI*

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/International/2010/01/14/Mongolia-moratorium-on-executions-lauded/UPI-27511263480633/

ADPAN NEWSLETTER NO.1 January - March 2010

NORTH KOREA

Pyongyang executes three escapees, imposes harsher penalties on refugees

Jeong Dae Sung, his wife Lee Ok Geum, and Song Gwang Cheol, all from Hyesan, a town in Ryanggang Province, were executed following an attempt to flee to South Korea.

22/01/10, *AsiaNews*

<http://www.speroforum.com/a/26037/Korea---Pyongyang-executes-three-escapees-imposes-harsher-penalties-on-refugees>

More North Koreans executed for escape bids: Seoul spy agency

North Korea is imposing harsher punishments for people trying to flee the country, with the number of executions increasing, South Korea's spy agency has announced.

25/01/10, *AFP*

<http://www.mysinchew.com/node/34441>

PAKISTAN

Burney asks govt to revoke all death sentences

United Nations special adviser on human rights, Ansar Burney, has attacked President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani's failure to take positive action to save thousands lives of innocent prisoners on death row. Burney has called for an immediate halt to executions, arguing that 60 to 65% of all prisoners on death row were innocent or victims of a faulty justice system.

17/02/10, *News – Pakistan*

http://www.thenews.com.pk/daily_detail.asp?id=224643

Govt mulling ending death sentence: Malik

Federal Interior Minister Rehman Malik has announced that the government is actively considering ending the death penalty, save those awarded for the most heinous crimes.

18/02/10, *Pakistan Observer*

<http://pakobserver.net/201002/18/detailnews.asp?id=16137>

PHILIPPINES

2 Filipinas saved from Saudi death row to return Thursday

Two Filipino domestic helpers, Idan Tejano and Marjanna Sakilan, had their death sentences commuted through the intercession of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

27/01/10, *Inquirer.net*

<http://globalnation.inquirer.net/news/breakingnews/view/20100127-249793/2-Filipinas-saved-from-Saudi-death-row-to-return-Thursday>

Filipina Maid Faces Execution in Kuwait

Jakatia Pawa, a Filipina maid, was convicted of murdering her employer's daughter in 2008 and was sentenced to death. But Pawa's attorney, human rights groups, and Philippine diplomats all maintain that Pawa was prosecuted for a crime she may not have committed.

28/01/10, *Huffington Post*

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mya-guarnieri/filipina-maid-faces-execu_b_440000.html

ADPAN NEWSLETTER NO.1 January - March 2010

SINGAPORE

Bangladeshi worker to hang in Singapore for murder

Kamrul Hasan Abdul Quddus, 35, was found guilty of strangling his girlfriend, Indonesian maid Yulia Afriyanti, 25, on December 16, 2007, and sentenced to death.

08/01/10, *The News – Pakistan*

<http://thenews.jang.com.pk/updates.asp?id=95580>

Judges reserve judgement in Yong's mandatory death penalty appeal

The Court of Appeal reserved judgement today in the case of Yong Vui Kong, who has challenged the constitutionality of the mandatory death sentence he received following his conviction for drug trafficking. Yong will have his execution stayed pending the outcome of the appeal.

15/03/10, *Online Citizen*

<http://theonlinecitizen.com/2010/03/judges-reserve-judgement-in-yongs-mandatory-death-penalty-appeal/>

M Ravi: Death penalty should not be dispensed 'in an automated, robotic, spasmodic approach'

Further coverage of the case of Yong Vui Kong, who is being represented by ADPAN member and lawyer, M. Ravi of LF Violet Netto.

16/03/10, *Online Citizen*

<http://theonlinecitizen.com/2010/03/m-ravi-death-penalt/>

http://www.asiacalling.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1284%3Aheroin-smuggler-challenges-singapore-mandatory-death-sentence&catid=105%3Aothers&Itemid=388&lang=en

SOUTH KOREA

Court rules death penalty constitutional

The Constitutional Court, in a majority ruling of five to four, held that the death penalty was constitutional.

25/02/10, *Korea Herald*

<http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/national/Detail.jsp?newsMLId=20100226000054>

See: ADPAN e-mail 05/10, 25 February 2010, *ADPAN Regrets the Constitutional Court Decision to Uphold the Death Penalty*

South Korea court upholds death penalty

Further coverage of South Korea's highest court's decision to uphold the death penalty, 13 years after the last execution.

25/02/10, *Reuters*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE61O1LM20100225>

Constitutional Court rules in favor of capital punishment

Further coverage of the Constitutional Court's decision to rule in favour of the death penalty.

25/02/10, *Yonhap News*

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/news/2010/02/25/0200000000AEN20100225009600315.HTML>

GNP wants swift executions of rape, serial murder convicts

Ahn Sang-soo, floor leader of the Grand National Party, argues that South Korea should end its de-facto moratorium on capital punishment and swiftly execute those convicted of rape or serial murders, amid a nationwide outrage over the brutal rape and killing of a 13-year-old girl.

11/03/10, *Yonhap News*

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2010/03/11/85/0302000000AEN20100311004500315F.HTML>

ADPAN NEWSLETTER NO.1 January - March 2010

Civic groups rally against executions

A confederation of 16 religious organisations and civic activist groups held a press conference at the Korean Christian Building in central Seoul to oppose the resumption of executions after a 13-year moratorium. The Justice Minister, Lee Kwi-nam had hinted at the resumption of executions when he visited Cheongsong Prison.

24/03/10, *Korea Times*

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2010/03/117_62956.html

SRI LANKA

Death penalty or long jail terms

The Army Act authorizes the Army Commander to establish a Court Martial with powers to impose the death penalty or lengthy jail terms on those found guilty, former Attorney General C.R. De Silva said yesterday.

10/02/10, *Daily Mirror – Sri Lanka*

<http://www.dailymirror.lk/print/index.php/news/front-page-news/3348.html>

TAIWAN

74 percent of people are for capital punishment

74 percent of the people in Taiwan are against the abolition of the capital punishment, and over half think death-row inmates should be executed, a survey has found.

30/01/10, *China Post*

<http://www.chinapost.com.tw/taiwan/national/national-news/2010/01/30/242891/74-percent.htm>

Ministry of Justice seeks to ban death penalty

Taiwan's government is working to remove the death penalty from the country's statute books but there is no timetable for achieving this goal, according to Minister of Justice Wang Ching-feng.

02/02/10, *Taiwan Today*

<http://www.taiwantoday.tw/ct.asp?xitem=93399&CtNode=414>

The debate over death penalty in Taiwan

Minister of Justice Wang Ching-feng defended her support for the gradual abolition of the death penalty, bringing hope to the 44 prisoners currently on death row.

02/02/10, *Taiwan News*

http://www.etaiwanews.com/etn/news_content.php?id=1170881&lang=eng_news

See: ADPAN e-mail 06/10, 18 March 2010, *ADPAN Appeals for Taiwan To Take The Lead*

Justice minister calls for end to death penalty

Justice Minister Wang Ching-feng said that she would continue advocating the abolition of the death penalty without fear of losing her job. "Research shows that abolishing the death penalty does not lead to an increase in crime," Wang said.

10/03/10, *Taiwan Today*

<http://www.taiwantoday.tw/ct.asp?xitem=95746&CtNode=414>

ADPAN NEWSLETTER NO.1 January - March 2010

Justice chief defends stay of executions

Minister of Justice Wang Ching-feng, a devout Buddhist, expressed her opposition to capital punishment in her recently published statement, "Reason and Forgiveness — Suspension of Practicing the Death Penalty."
11/03/10, Taipei Times

<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/front/archives/2010/03/11/2003467758>

Execution is illegal under ROC regulations

Editorial argues that the incorporation into law of two international human rights covenants makes executions in the country illegal.

22/03/10, Taipei Times

<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/editorials/archives/2010/03/22/2003468619>

Taiwan's new justice minister orders death row review

Taiwan's new justice minister has ordered a review of the cases of all 44 prisoners on Taiwan's death row. Tseng Yung-fu was also quoted by the official Central News Agency as suggesting that his ministry would carry out the death sentence in cases where the condemned prisoners' guilt had been confirmed.

22/03/10, AFP

http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/afp_asiapacific/view/1045247/1.html

EU representatives discuss death penalty

EU officials have met with Executive Yuan Secretary-General Lin Join-sane, and outlined their hopes that Taiwan will speed up the process towards abolishing the death penalty. During the exchange of views, Lin told the EU representatives that the government has not yet set a timetable for the execution of the 44 prisoners on death row.

27/03/10, Taipei Times

<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2010/03/27/2003469075>

ANALYSIS: Taiwan urged to rethink resumption of death penalty

Despite calls from ADPAN and its members - including Amnesty International, the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty and the TAEDP - that Taiwan should institute a moratorium before moving to abolish the death penalty, reports suggest that the Taiwan government is likely to ignore these calls in line with public support for executions to continue.

29/03/10, Taipei Times

<http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2010/03/29/2003469219>

VIET NAM

The Death Penalty in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) today released a special report on the death penalty in Vietnam, entitled "The Death Penalty in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam," coinciding with the opening of the 4th World Congress currently being held in Geneva.

23/02/10, FIDH

<http://www.fidh.org/The-Death-Penalty-in-the-Socialist-Republic-of-Vietnam>

ADPAN NEWSLETTER NO.1

January - March 2010

ASIA PACIFIC REGION

A matter of life and death

Despite the fact that 95% of Asians live in jurisdictions that carry out capital punishment, and that Asia accounts for over three-quarters of executions worldwide, this article argues that the region is making real progress on the path towards abolition.

25/03/10, *The Economist*

http://www.economist.com/world/asia/PrinterFriendly.cfm?story_id=15769791

WORLD

EU wants global halt on executions by 2015

Spain's Prime Minister, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, says the European Union wants a halt to all executions by 2015 as a step toward abolishing the death penalty. Spain now holds the rotating EU presidency.

24/02/10, *AP*

http://articles.sfgate.com/2010-02-24/world/17953690_1_death-penalty-jose-luis-rodriguez-zapatero-spain-s-prime-minister

Death penalty opponents see executions on the wane

An increasing number of countries are abolishing the death penalty and even the most active users of capital punishment are taking steps to restrict it.

24/02/10, *Reuters*

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE61N4MH20100224>

Senior UN official cites evidence of growing support for abolishing death penalty

Sergei A. Ordzhonikidze, Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva, told the Fourth World Congress against the Death Penalty that there is evidence of growing global support for the eventual elimination of the death penalty.

24/02/10, *UN*

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=33877&Cr=death+penalty&Cr1=>

Final Declaration: Fourth World Congress Against the Death Penalty

Approximately 1700 abolitionists, from over 100 countries, convened at the 4th World Congress Against the Death Penalty, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 24 to 26 February 2010. The final declaration adopted at the Congress can be accessed via the link below.

26/02/10, *ECPM*

<http://www.abolition.fr/fr/depeches/1305-final-declaration--4th-world-congress-against-the-death-penalty--geneva---february-26,-2010>

Death Penalty Report: China Must End Secrecy Surrounding Sentences and Executions

Amnesty International's report, *Death Sentences and Executions in 2009*, reveals that at least 714 people were executed in 18 countries and at least 2001 people were sentenced to death in 56 countries last year. This excludes the thousands of executions that were likely to have taken place in China, where information on the death penalty remains a state secret.

30/03/10, *Amnesty International*

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/report/death-penalty-report-china-must-end-secrecy-surrounding-sentences-and-execut>

<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/1225427/China-executing-people-'in-the-thousands'>

ADPAN NEWSLETTER NO.1
January - March 2010