

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MEDIA BRIEFING

8 October 2010
AI Index: ACT 50/009/2010

10 key facts on the death penalty

Ahead of World Day Against the Death Penalty on Sunday 10 October 2010 (10/10/10), Amnesty International has released the following media briefing on the death penalty. Amnesty opposes the death penalty in all circumstances.

1: China executes more people every year than all other countries in the world put together

2: More than two-thirds of the world (139 countries) has abolished the death penalty in law or practice

3: Last year 18 countries executed people

4: In Japan Hakamada Iwao has been on death row since 1968 - he is believed to be the world's longest-serving death row prisoner

5: Belarus is the only country in Europe still carrying out executions

6: In 2009 there were 106 death sentences passed in the USA, the lowest number since the resumption of capital punishment there in 1977

7: In Iran at least 190 people have been executed since the beginning of 2010. Information collected over recent years suggest that at least 141 people are currently under sentence of death for crimes that were committed when they were below 18 years of age, in violation of international law .

8: 2010 marks one hundred years since Sweden carried out its last execution. Alfred Ander was executed by guillotine on 23 November 1910

9: There are over 3,000 prisoners on death row in the United States; in Pakistan there are an estimated 7,000

10: In the case of Troy Davis - a man on death row in Georgia, USA for over 19 years - seven of nine witnesses against him later recanted or changed their initial testimonies in sworn affidavits

Further information on the death penalty can be found at: www.amnesty.org/en/death-penalty
To arrange an interview please contact Amnesty International's press office in London, UK, on +44 20 7413 5566 or email: press@amnesty.org

Public Document

International Secretariat, Amnesty International, 1 Easton St., London WC1X 0DW, UK
www.amnesty.org