
amnesty international

Death sentences and executions in 2005

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During 2005, at least 2,148 people were executed in 22 countries. At least 5,186 people were sentenced to death in 53 countries. These were only minimum figures; the true figures were certainly higher.

Executions are known to have been carried out in the following countries in 2005:

BANGLADESH
BELARUS
CHINA
INDONESIA
IRAN
IRAQ
JAPAN
JORDAN
KOREA (North)
KUWAIT
LIBYA

MONGOLIA
PAKISTAN
PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY
SAUDI ARABIA
SINGAPORE
SOMALIA
TAIWAN
USA
UZBEKISTAN
VIET NAM
YEMEN

Death sentences are known to have been imposed in the following countries and territories in 2005:

AFGHANISTAN	LEBANON
ALGERIA	LIBYA
BAHAMAS	MALAWI
BAHRAIN	MALAYSIA
BANGLADESH	MALI
BELIZE	MONGOLIA
BARBADOS	MOROCCO
BURKINA FASO	NIGERIA
BURUNDI	OMAN
CHINA	PAKISTAN
CONGO (Democratic Republic)	PHILIPPINES
EGYPT	QATAR
ETHIOPIA	SAUDI ARABIA
GHANA	SINGAPORE
GUINEA	SOMALIA
INDIA	SRI LANKA
INDONESIA	SUDAN
IRAN	SYRIA
IRAQ	TAIWAN
JAMAICA	TANZANIA
JAPAN	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
JORDAN	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
KAZAKSTAN	UZBEKISTAN
KOREA (North)	VIET NAM
KOREA (South)	YEMEN
KUWAIT	ZIMBABWE
LAOS	

As in previous years, the vast majority of executions worldwide were carried out in a tiny handful of countries. In 2005, 94 per cent of all known executions took place in China, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the USA.

Based on public reports available, Amnesty International estimated that at least 1,770 people were executed in China during the year, although the true figures were believed to be much higher. A Chinese legal expert was recently quoted as stating the figure for executions is approximately 8,000 based on information from local officials and judges, but official national statistics on the application of the death penalty remained classified as a state secret.

Iran executed at least 94 people, and Saudi Arabia at least 86. There were 60 executions in the USA.

The total figure for those currently condemned to death and awaiting execution is difficult to access, although human rights researcher Mark Warren has estimated the number at between 19,474 and 24,546. These figures are based on information from human rights groups, media reports and the limited official figures available. Again, the true total is probably higher.

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