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The Death Penalty: List of Abolitionist and Retentionist Countries (1 January 2000)

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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 the past decade, an average of over three 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.

As of 1 January 2000, the number of abolitionist and retentionist countries was as follows:

Abolitionist for all crimes	73
Abolitionist for ordinary crimes only	13
Abolitionist in practice	22
Total abolitionist in law or practice	108
Retentionist	87

Regular updates to the List of Abolitionist and Retentionist Countries are posted on the Amnesty International website, www.amnesty.org.

1. ABOLITIONIST FOR ALL CRIMES

Countries and territories whose laws do not provide for the death penalty for any crime

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
DJIBOUTI	1995		Ind.
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	1966		
EAST TIMOR	1999		
ECUADOR	1906		
ESTONIA	1998		1991
FINLAND	1972	1949	1944
FRANCE	1981		1977

Country	Date(A)	Date(AO)	Date(last ex.)
GEORGIA	1997		1994K
GERMANY	1987		
GREECE	1993		1972
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.)	1991		
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

Country	Date(A)	Date(AO)	Date(last ex.)
PALAU			
PANAMA			1903K
PARAGUAY	1992		1928
POLAND	1997		1988
PORTUGAL	1976	1867	1849K
ROMANIA	1989		1989
SAN MARINO	1865	1848	1468K
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE	1990		Ind.
SEYCHELLES	1993		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
TURKMENISTAN	1999		
TUVALU			Ind.
UKRAINE	1999		
UNITED KINGDOM	1998	1973	1964
URUGUAY	1907		
VANUATU			Ind.
VATICAN CITY STATE	1969		
VENEZUELA	1863		

2. ABOLITIONIST FOR ORDINARY CRIMES ONLY

Countries whose laws provide for the death penalty only for exceptional crimes such as crimes under military law or crimes committed in exceptional circumstances

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

3. ABOLITIONIST IN PRACTICE

Countries which retain the death penalty for ordinary crimes such as murder but can be considered abolitionist in practice in that they have not executed anyone during the past 10 years and are believed to have a policy or established practice of not carrying out executions.

The list also includes countries which have made an international commitment not to use the death penalty.

Abbreviations: **Date (last ex.)** = date of last execution; **K** = date of last known execution;

Ind. = no executions since independence

Country	Date(last ex.)
ALBANIA	
BHUTAN	1964K
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	1957K
BURKINA FASO	1988
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	1981
CONGO (Republic)	1982
COTE D'IVOIRE	
GAMBIA	1981
GRENADA	1978
MADAGASCAR	1958K
MALDIVES	1952K
MALI	1980
NAURU	Ind.
NIGER	1976K
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	1950
SAMOA	Ind.
SENEGAL	1967
SRI LANKA	1976
SURINAME	1982
TOGO	
TONGA	1982
TURKEY	1984

4. RETENTIONIST

Countries which retain the death penalty for ordinary crimes

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

COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE ABOLISHED THE DEATH PENALTY SINCE 1976

1976: PORTUGAL abolished the death penalty for all crimes.

1978: DENMARK abolished the death penalty for all 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.

1992: ANGOLA, PARAGUAY and *SWITZERLAND* abolished the death penalty for all crimes.

1993: GREECE, GUINEA-BISSAU, HONG KONG (4) and *SEYCHELLES* abolished the death penalty for all crimes.

1994: ITALY abolished the death penalty for all crimes.

1995: DJIBOUTI, MAURITIUS, MOLDOVA and *SPAIN* abolished the death penalty for all 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: **EAST TIMOR, TURKMENISTAN** and **UKRAINE** abolished the death penalty for all crimes. **LATVIA** (5) abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes.

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 1997 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.

KEYWORDS: DEATH PENALTY1
