



**THERE ARE LEGAL
SAFEGUARDS TO PREVENT
THE EXECUTION OF AN
INNOCENT PERSON.
IF YOU DON'T EXECUTE
MURDERERS THEY WILL
KILL AGAIN**



**amnesty
international**

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 1977
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THE FACTS

The death penalty is final and irreversible. An innocent person once executed can never be brought back to life. As long as the death penalty remains as a punishment, this risk will always be present.

Today many people are sentenced to death and executed following trials which do not meet internationally recognized standards of fairness. In some countries, executions are carried out within hours of sentencing, leaving little or no time for appeals or petitions for clemency.

Murderers as a group have one of the lowest rates of recidivism of any criminal group.

THE FIGURES

In a 1986 study in the USA Professors Hugo Adam Beadau and Michael Radelet concluded that 349 innocent people were wrongly convicted of offences punishable by death, 25 of whom were executed.

In Iraq many of those executed since 1980 have been sentenced to death by special courts where trials are summary and where the defendant has a limited or no right of appeal.

In the UK, Timothy Evans was executed for the murder of his baby daughter. In 1966 he was posthumously granted a pardon by the Queen.

In the USA, a study of 432 convicted murderers who were released on parole during the period 1938-1972 showed that not one was convicted of subsequent criminal homicide.

FIND OUT MORE

... about the facts on the death penalty by contacting your Amnesty International state office or phoning (02) 267 2075.