

DEATH PENALTY NEWS

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
1 Easton Street
London WC1X 0DW
United Kingdom

AI Index: ACT 53/005/2003

A QUARTERLY BULLETIN ON THE DEATH PENALTY AND MOVES TOWARDS WORLDWIDE ABOLITION

NEWS INDEX FOR 2003

COUNTRY	DATE	SUBJECT
Armenia	July	President commutes all death sentences to life in prison
Botswana	December	Four prisoners executed
Chad	December	Eight executions, first since 1991
China	March December	Mobile vans use lethal injection to kill prisoners Ethnic executions
Czech Republic	March	Court will not extradite Chinese citizen
Democratic Republic of Congo	March July	Fifteen people reported secretly executed Government abolishes military tribunals
Ethiopia	December	Five people sentenced to death
Iran	March December	Death sentence on academic quashed Execution of Afsaneh Noroozi not to be carried out "for the moment"
Kenya	March	Mass commutations and releases
Mexico	December	President commutes death sentences
Morocco	December	New law promulgated widens scope of death penalty
Nigeria	December	Amina Lawal's death sentence overturned by appeal court Jibrin Babaji sentenced to death by stoning
Qatar	March	Foreigner pardoned
Taiwan	March December	Three released Plans to abolish death penalty
Tajikistan	July	Scope of death penalty reduced
Thailand	March December	Senate approves first reading of bill to amend Criminal Code Execution by machine gun fire replaced by lethal injection
Trinidad & Tobago	December	Mandatory death penalty ruled unconstitutional
Uganda	July	Deputy Commissioner General of Prisons states he is opposed to the death penalty
USA	March	Int'l Court of Justice warns USA to prevent execution of three Mexicans Illinois -Mass commutations

COUNTRY	DATE	SUBJECT
	March	Maryland – Senate rejects bill to impose moratorium on executions
	July	Oklahoma – Scott Hain executed for murder committed when he was 17 Government says three of six men to be tried will not face death penalty
	December	Illinois – Doctors and nurses barred from participating in executions Missouri – 111 th exoneration from death row US Supreme Court refuses to hear appeal of minor sentenced to death in Texas Georgia – Mentally ill prisoner executed North Carolina – Executed prisoner’s homosexuality used against him at trial Execution of John Daniels highlights problem with prosecutorial conduct in capital cases Texas – First white prisoner executed for murder of black victim since 1982 Washington (State) – Plea arrangement allows murderer of 48 victims to avoid death penalty
Viet Nam	March December	Ten people executed since start of the year Executions escalate
OTHER		
Council of Europe	December	Warning to Japan and USA
Protocol 13	July	Enters into force
UN Commission on Human Rights	July	UNCHR urges retentionist states for first time not to extend application of death penalty
World Day	December	Commemorated in over 60 countries on five continents