

## **LIST OF ABOLITIONIST AND RETENTIONIST COUNTRIES (1 January 2007)**

One country abolished the death penalty for all crimes in 2006 (Philippines) and two countries removed provisions for the death penalty from their country's constitutions (Georgia and Moldova). One country (Montenegro) became an independent member state of the United Nations (previously Serbia and Montenegro). Nearly 130 countries in the world have now 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 since 1976. It shows that in the past decade, an average of three countries a year have abolished the death penalty or, having done so for ordinary offences, have gone on to abolish it for all offences.

As of 1 January 2007, the number of abolitionist and retentionist countries was as follows:

<b>Abolitionist for all crimes</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Abolitionist for ordinary crimes only</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Abolitionist in practice</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Total abolitionist in law or practice</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>Retentionist</b>	<b>69</b>

## 1. ABOLITIONIST FOR ALL CRIMES

*Countries 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; **NK** = date of last execution not known; **Ind.** = no executions since independence

Country	Date(A)	Date(AO)	Date(last ex.)
ANDORRA	1990		1943
ANGOLA	1992		NK
ARMENIA	2003		NK
AUSTRALIA	1985	1984	1967
AUSTRIA	1968	1950	1950
AZERBAIJAN	1998		1993
BELGIUM	1996		1950
BHUTAN	2004		1964K
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA	2001	1997	NK
BULGARIA	1998		1989
CAMBODIA	1989		NK
CANADA	1998	1976	1962
CAPE VERDE	1981		1835
COLOMBIA	1910		1909
COSTA RICA	1877		NK
COTE D'IVOIRE	2000		NK
CROATIA	1990		NK
CYPRUS	2002	1983	1962
CZECH REPUBLIC	1990		NK
DENMARK	1978	1933	1950
DJIBOUTI	1995		Ind.
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	1966		NK
ECUADOR	1906		NK
ESTONIA	1998		1991
FINLAND	1972	1949	1944
FRANCE	1981		1977
GEORGIA	1997		1994K
GERMANY	1987		NK
GREECE	2004	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

Country	Date(A)	Date(AO)	Date(last ex.)
KIRIBATI			Ind.
LIBERIA	2005		NK
LIECHTENSTEIN	1987		1785
LITHUANIA	1998		1995
LUXEMBOURG	1979		1949
MACEDONIA (former Yug. Rep.)	1991		NK
MALTA	2000	1971	1943
MARSHALL ISLANDS			Ind.
MAURITIUS	1995		1987
MEXICO	2005		1937
MICRONESIA (Federated States)			Ind.
MOLDOVA	1995		NK
MONACO	1962		1847
MONTENEGRO	2002		NK
MOZAMBIQUE	1990		1986
NAMIBIA	1990		1988K
NEPAL	1997	1990	1979
NETHERLANDS	1982	1870	1952
NEW ZEALAND	1989	1961	1957
NICARAGUA	1979		1930
NIUE			NK
NORWAY	1979	1905	1948
PALAU			NK
PANAMA			1903K
PARAGUAY	1992		1928
PHILIPPINES	2006		1999
POLAND	1997		1988
PORTUGAL	1976	1867	1849K
ROMANIA	1989		1989
SAMOA	2004		Ind.
SAN MARINO	1865	1848	1468K
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE	1990		Ind.
SENEGAL	2004		1967
SERBIA	2002		NK
SEYCHELLES	1993		Ind.
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	1990		NK
SLOVENIA	1989		NK
SOLOMON ISLANDS		1966	Ind.
SOUTH AFRICA	1997	1995	1991
SPAIN	1995	1978	1975
SWEDEN	1972	1921	1910
SWITZERLAND	1992	1942	1944
TIMOR-LESTE	1999		NK
TURKEY	2004	2002	1984

Country	Date(A)	Date(AO)	Date(last ex.)
TURKMENISTAN	1999		NK
TUVALU			Ind.
UKRAINE	1999		NK
UNITED KINGDOM	1998	1973	1964
URUGUAY	1907		NK
VANUATU			Ind.
VATICAN CITY STATE	1969		NK
VENEZUELA	1863		NK

## 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, such as wartime crimes*

Abbreviations: **Date (AO)** = date of abolition for ordinary crimes; **Date (last ex.)** = date of last execution; **K** = date of last known execution; **NK** = date of last execution not known; **Ind.** = no executions since independence

Country	Date(AO)	Date(last ex.)
ALBANIA	2000	NK
ARGENTINA	1984	NK
BOLIVIA	1997	1974
BRAZIL	1979	1855
CHILE	2001	1985
COOK ISLANDS		NK
EL SALVADOR	1983	1973K
FIJI	1979	1964
ISRAEL	1954	1962
LATVIA	1999	1996
PERU	1979	1979

### 3. ABOLITIONIST IN PRACTICE

*Countries that 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.)
ALGERIA	1993
BENIN	1987
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	1957K
BURKINA FASO	1988
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	1981
CONGO (Republic)	1982
GABON	NK
GAMBIA	1981
GHANA	NK
GRENADA	1978
KENYA	1987
KYRGYZSTAN	1998
MADAGASCAR	1958K
MALAWI	1992
MALDIVES	1952K
MALI	1980
MAURITANIA	1987
MOROCCO	1993
MYANMAR	NK
NAURU	Ind.
NIGER	1976K
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	1950
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	1999
SRI LANKA	1976
SURINAME	1982
SWAZILAND	NK
TOGO	NK
TONGA	1982
TUNISIA	1991

#### 4. RETENTIONIST

*Countries and territories that retain the death penalty for ordinary crimes*

AFGHANISTAN  
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA  
BAHAMAS  
BAHRAIN  
BANGLADESH  
BARBADOS  
BELARUS  
BELIZE  
BOTSWANA  
BURUNDI  
CAMEROON  
CHAD  
CHINA  
COMOROS  
CONGO (Democratic Republic)  
CUBA  
DOMINICA  
EGYPT  
EQUATORIAL GUINEA  
ERITREA  
ETHIOPIA  
GUATEMALA  
GUINEA  
GUYANA  
INDIA  
INDONESIA  
IRAN  
IRAQ  
JAMAICA  
JAPAN  
JORDAN  
KAZAKSTAN  
KOREA (North)  
KOREA (South)  
KUWAIT  
LAOS  
LEBANON  
LESOTHO  
LIBYA  
MALAYSIA  
MONGOLIA  
NIGERIA  
OMAN  
PAKISTAN  
PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY  
QATAR  
RWANDA  
SAINT CHRISTOPHER & NEVIS  
SAINT LUCIA  
SAINT VINCENT & GRENADINES  
SAUDI ARABIA  
SIERRA LEONE  
SINGAPORE  
SOMALIA  
SUDAN  
SYRIA  
TAIWAN  
TAJKISTAN  
TANZANIA  
THAILAND  
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO  
UGANDA  
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
UZBEKISTAN  
VIET NAM  
YEMEN  
ZAMBIA  
ZIMBABWE

## **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:* **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** 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** (now **TIMOR-LESTE**), **TURKMENISTAN** and **UKRAINE** abolished the death penalty for all crimes. **LATVIA** (5) abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes.

2000: **ALBANIA** (6) abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes. **COTE D=IVOIRE** and **MALTA** abolished the death penalty for all crimes.

2001: **BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA** (7) abolished the death penalty for all crimes. **CHILE** abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes.

2002: **CYPRUS** and **YUGOSLAVIA** (now separate states of **SERBIA** and **MONTENEGRO**(9)) abolished the death penalty for all crimes.

2003: **ARMENIA** abolished the death penalty for all crimes.

2004: **BHUTAN, GREECE** (8), **SAMOA, SENEGAL** and **TURKEY** abolished the death penalty for all crimes.

2005: **LIBERIA** (10) and **MEXICO** abolished the death penalty for all crimes.

2006: **PHILIPPINES** abolished the death penalty for all 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. Since then Hong Kong has remained 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.



(6) In 2000 Albania ratified Protocol No. 6 to the European Convention on Human Rights, abolishing the death penalty for peacetime offences.

(7) In 2001 Bosnia-Herzegovina ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, abolishing the death penalty for all crimes.

(8) In November 2004 the Greek parliament approved the ratification of Protocol No. 13 to the European Convention on Human Rights, thereby abolishing the death penalty for all crimes.

(9) Montenegro had already abolished the death penalty in 2002 when it was part of a state union with Serbia. It became an independent member state of the United Nations on 28 June 2006. It ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on 23 October 2006.

(10) Liberia ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights without reservation on 16 September 2005.