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### **The Death Penalty: A Failure of Justice**

On the fourth World Day Against the Death Penalty, AI and the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty are highlighting the failures of justice in the sentencing and implementation of the Death penalty; providing more compelling reasons for its abolition.

The death penalty is never acceptable, and every execution constitutes an extreme violation of the right to life. The violation is exacerbated when judgements are passed after an unfair judicial process.

Discrimination, unfair trials, judicial error, the execution of child offenders and those suffering from mental disabilities all amount to a failure of justice; and provide more compelling reasons to abolish the death penalty.

#### **China: Innocent and executed**



She Xianglin and Teng Xingshan were both convicted of the murder of their wives and sentenced to death. She Xianglin was later resentenced to 15 years imprisonment. In both cases, the wives reappeared several years later. She Xianglin was released after 11 years in prison in 2005 and officially cleared of all charges. Teng Xingshan, however, had been executed in 1989. Wherever the death penalty is used, the risk of executing the innocent remains.

#### **Saudi Arabia: Victim of discrimination**



Siti Zainab Binti Duhri Rupa is an Indonesian mother of two children. In 1999 she was arrested and charged with the murder of her employer. Denied access to legal advice, her family or embassy, she confessed to the crime. Foreign nations face discrimination in the judicial system of Saudi Arabia and around half of those executed come from abroad. Many did not understand the language in which their trial was held. Siti Zainab remains imprisoned and is at risk of execution.

#### **Nigeria: Denial of right to a fair trial**



"Gloria" (she has requested her identity be protected) was arrested and charged with murder at the age of 17. Forced to wait 7 years before her trial, she was then tried without legal representation and sentenced to death. She remains unable to lodge a legal appeal because she has no lawyer. She has been imprisoned for the last 11 years in Urguru prison.

#### **USA: Mentally ill convicted**



Scott Panetti suffers from schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. After his divorce, he dressed in military clothes and murdered his ex-wife's parents. He then changed his clothes and turned himself into the police. In spite of his acknowledged and long history of mental health problems, he was declared fit to stand trial and legally represent himself. In court, he dressed as a cowboy and often made incoherent remarks, mounting no formal legal defence. He was sentenced to death in 1995 and remains on death row in Texas.

#### **Iran: Death sentences for child offenders**



Shahram Pourmansouri was sentenced to death for attempted hijacking of an aircraft in 2001 when aged 17. International law expressly forbids the execution

of those under the age of 18 at the time of the crime. Iran and Pakistan are the only countries to currently execute child offenders (although Pakistan's laws forbid it). Shahram Pourmansouri was scheduled to be hanged in January 2005 but received a stay of execution. He remains condemned to death.

### **Asia DP network**

Today activists in countries across the Asia-Pacific region will be launching the Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network (ADPAN).

📺 Find out more about the Death Penalty in the Asia-Pacific region from Sinapan Samydorai, an activist from Singapore. (in English)

### **Take action now!**

Sign our petition asking these governments to halt executions as a first step towards the abolition of the death penalty. (in English / French)

[link to <http://www.worldcoalition.org/bcoaljm21.htm>

[[www.worldcoalition.org](http://www.worldcoalition.org) is available in English & French only]