

### **Three more executions in Japan**

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On the day that Amnesty International (AI) launched encouraging death penalty statistics, news emerged that Japan has executed three more prisoners.

Nata Kosaku, Oda Yoshikatsu and Tanaka Masahiro were put to death in detention centres in Osaka, Fukuoka and Tokyo respectively. The triple execution comes on the same day that the Japanese Diet voted for Japan's accession to the ICC (International Criminal Court), which completely excludes the death penalty from the statute.

The deaths of the three men means a total of seven people have been killed by the Japanese government since executions were resumed on 25 December 2006.

Despite AI's Annual Death Penalty Statistics showing progress towards abolition, Japan's perseverance with capital punishment highlights the need for further change.

AI opposes the death penalty in all cases without exception as a violation of the right to life and as the ultimate form of cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment.