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**THE DEATH PENALTY
LIST OF ABOLITIONIST AND RETENTIONIST COUNTRIES
(AS OF 31 MARCH 1998)**

More than half the countries in the world have 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 in law since 1976. It shows that in recent years, an average of two countries a year have abolished the death penalty in law or, having done so for ordinary offences, have gone on to abolish it for all offences.

The number of abolitionist and retentionist countries is now as follows:

| | |
|--|------------|
| Abolitionist for all crimes | 63 |
| Abolitionist for ordinary crimes only | 16 |
| Abolitionist <u>de facto</u> | 25 |
| Total abolitionist in law or practice | 104 |
| Retentionist | 91 |

The countries are designated as follows. **Abolitionist for all crimes** are those countries and territories whose laws do not provide for the death penalty for any crimes; **abolitionist for ordinary crimes only** are those 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; **abolitionist de facto** are those which retain the death penalty for ordinary crimes but can be considered abolitionist in practice in that they have not executed anyone during the past 10 years or more, or have made an international commitment not to carry out executions; **retentionist** are those which retain and use the death penalty for ordinary crimes. (Most retentionist countries are known to have carried out executions during the past 10 years. On some countries Amnesty International has no record of executions but is unable to ascertain whether or not executions have in fact been carried out. Several retentionist countries have carried out executions in the past 10 years but have since instituted moratoria on executions.)

This list is an updated version of the October 1997 List of Abolitionist and Retentionist Countries (AI Index: ACT 50/12/97).

ABOLITIONIST FOR ALL CRIMES

| Country | Date of Abolition | Date of Abolition for Ordinary Crimes | Date of Last Execution |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| ANDORRA | 1990 | | 1943 |
| ANGOLA | 1992 | | |
| AUSTRALIA | 1985 | 1984 | 1967 |
| AUSTRIA | 1968 | 1950 | 1950 |
| AZERBAIJAN | 1998 | | 1993 |
| BELGIUM | 1996 | | 1950 |
| CAMBODIA | 1989 | | |
| CAPE VERDE | 1981 | | 1835 |
| COLOMBIA | 1910 | | 1909 |
| COSTA RICA | 1877 | | |
| CROATIA | 1990 | | |
| CZECH REPUBLIC | 1990 | | |
| DENMARK | 1978 | 1933 | 1950 |
| DOMINICAN REPUBLIC | 1966 | | |
| ECUADOR | 1906 | | |
| ESTONIA | 1998 | | 1991 |
| FINLAND | 1972 | 1949 | 1944 |
| FRANCE | 1981 | | 1977 |
| GEORGIA | 1997 | | 1994 (K) |
| GERMANY | 1987 | | |
| GREECE | 1993 | | 1972 |
| GUINEA-BISSAU | 1993 | | 1986 (K) |
| HAITI | 1987 | | 1972 (K) |
| HONDURAS | 1956 | | 1940 |
| HUNGARY | 1990 | | 1988 |
| ICELAND | 1928 | | 1830 |
| IRELAND | 1990 | | 1954 |
| ITALY | 1994 | 1947 | 1947 |
| KIRIBATI | | | (I) |
| LIECHTENSTEIN | 1987 | | 1785 |
| LUXEMBOURG | 1979 | | 1949 |
| MACEDONIA (former Yugoslav | | | |

| | | | |
|--|------|------|----------|
| Republic) | | | |
| MARSHALL ISLANDS | | | (I) |
| MAURITIUS | 1985 | | 1987 |
| MICRONESIA (<i>Federated States</i>) | | | (I) |
| MOLDOVA | 1995 | | |
| MONACO | 1962 | | 1847 |
| MOZAMBIQUE | 1990 | | 1986 |
| NAMIBIA | 1990 | | 1988 (K) |
| NEPAL | 1997 | 1990 | 1979 |
| NETHERLANDS | 1982 | 1870 | 1952 |
| NEW ZEALAND | 1989 | 1961 | 1957 |
| NICARAGUA | 1979 | | 1930 |
| NORWAY | 1979 | 1905 | 1948 |
| PALAU | | | |
| PANAMA | | | 1903 (K) |
| PARAGUAY | 1992 | | 1928 |
| POLAND | 1997 | | 1988 |
| PORTUGAL | 1976 | 1867 | 1849 (K) |
| ROMANIA | 1989 | | 1989 |
| SAN MARINO | 1865 | 1848 | 1468 (K) |
| SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE | 1990 | | (I) |
| SLOVAKIA | 1990 | | |
| SLOVENIA | 1989 | | |
| SOLOMON ISLANDS | | 1966 | (I) |
| SPAIN | 1995 | 1978 | 1975 |
| SWEDEN | 1972 | 1921 | 1910 |

| | | | |
|--------------------|------|------|------|
| SWITZERLAND | 1992 | 1942 | 1944 |
| TUVALU | | | (I) |
| URUGUAY | 1907 | | |
| VANUATU | | | (I) |
| VATICAN CITY STATE | 1969 | | |
| VENEZUELA | 1863 | | |

TOTAL: 63 countries

(K) = Date of last known execution

(I) = No executions since independence

ABOLITIONIST FOR ORDINARY CRIMES ONLY

| Country | Date of Abolition for Ordinary Crimes | Date of Last Execution |
|--------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| ARGENTINA | 1984 | |
| BOLIVIA | 1997 | 1974 |
| BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA | 1997 | |
| BRAZIL | 1979 | 1855 |
| CANADA | 1976 | 1962 |
| COOK ISLANDS | | |
| CYPRUS | 1983 | 1962 |
| EL SALVADOR | 1983 | 1973 (K) |
| FIJI | 1979 | 1964 |
| ISRAEL | 1954 | 1962 |
| MALTA | 1971 | 1943 |
| MEXICO | | 1937 |
| PERU | 1979 | 1979 |
| SEYCHELLES | | (I) |
| SOUTH AFRICA | 1995 | 1991 |
| UNITED KINGDOM | 1973 | 1964 |

TOTAL: 16 countries

(K) = Date of last known execution

(I) = No executions since independence

ABOLITIONIST DE FACTO

| Country | Date of Last Execution |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ALBANIA | |
| BERMUDA | 1977 |
| BHUTAN | 1964 (K) |
| BRUNEI DARUSSALAM | 1957 (K) |
| CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC | 1981 |
| CONGO (Republic) | 1982 |
| COTE D'IVOIRE | |
| DJIBOUTI | (I) |
| GAMBIA | 1981 |
| GRENADA | 1978 |
| MADAGASCAR | 1958 (K) |
| MALDIVES | 1952 (K) |
| MALI | 1980 |
| NAURU | (I) |
| NIGER | 1976 (K) |
| PAPUA NEW GUINEA | 1950 |
| PHILIPPINES | 1976 |
| RWANDA | 1982 |
| SENEGAL | 1967 |
| SRI LANKA | 1976 |
| SURINAME | 1982 |
| TOGO | |
| TONGA | 1982 |
| TURKEY | 1984 |
| WESTERN SAMOA | (I) |

TOTAL: 25 countries and territories

(K) = Date of last known execution

(I) = No executions since independence

RETENTIONIST

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| AFGHANISTAN | INDONESIA | RUSSIAN FEDERATION |
| ALGERIA | IRAN | SAINT CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS |
| ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA | IRAQ | SAINT LUCIA |
| ARMENIA | JAMAICA | SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES |
| BAHAMAS | JAPAN | SAUDI ARABIA |
| BAHRAIN | JORDAN | SIERRA LEONE |
| BANGLADESH | KAZAKSTAN | SINGAPORE |
| BARBADOS | KENYA | SOMALIA |
| BELARUS | KOREA (Democratic People's Republic) | SUDAN |
| BELIZE | (North Korea) | SWAZILAND |
| BENIN | KOREA (Republic) (South Korea) | SYRIA |
| BOTSWANA | KUWAIT | TAIWAN (Republic of China) |
| BULGARIA | KYRGYZSTAN | TAJIKISTAN |
| BURKINA FASO | LAOS | TANZANIA |
| BURUNDI | LATVIA | THAILAND |
| CAMEROON | LEBANON | TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO |
| CHAD | LESOTHO | TUNISIA |
| CHILE | LIBERIA | TURKMENISTAN |
| CHINA (People's Republic) | LIBYA | UGANDA |
| COMOROS | LITHUANIA | UKRAINE |
| CONGO (Democratic Republic) | MALAWI | UNITED ARAB EMIRATES |
| CUBA | MALAYSIA | UNITED STATES OF AMERICA |
| DOMINICA | MAURITANIA | UZBEKISTAN |
| EGYPT | MONGOLIA | VIET NAM |
| EQUATORIAL GUINEA | MOROCCO | YEMEN |
| ERITREA | MYANMAR | YUGOSLAVIA (Federal Republic) |
| ETHIOPIA | NIGERIA | ZAMBIA |
| GABON | OMAN | ZIMBABWE |
| GHANA | PAKISTAN | |
| GUATEMALA | PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY | |
| GUINEA | QATAR | |
| GUYANA | | |
| INDIA | | |

Total: 91 countries and territories

- 1976: PORTUGAL abolished the death penalty for all crimes. CANADA abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes.
- 1978: DENMARK abolished the death penalty for all crimes. SPAIN abolished the death penalty for ordinary 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. NEPAL abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes.
- 1992: ANGOLA, PARAGUAY and SWITZERLAND abolished the death penalty for all crimes.
- 1993: GREECE, GUINEA-BISSAU and HONG KONG (4) abolished the death penalty for all crimes.
- 1994: ITALY abolished the death penalty for all crimes.
- 1995: MAURITIUS, MOLDOVA and SPAIN abolished the death penalty for all crimes. SOUTH AFRICA abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes.
- 1996: BELGIUM abolished the death penalty for all crimes.
- 1997: GEORGIA, NEPAL and POLAND abolished the death penalty for all crimes. BOLIVIA and BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes.
- 1998: AZERBAIJAN and ESTONIA 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 1996 Hong Kong was returned to Chinese rule as a special administrative region of China. Amnesty International understands that Hong Kong will remain abolitionist.