



CONDEMNED CELL

**THE DEATH PENALTY IS A
DETERRENT TO CRIME. THE
DEATH PENALTY PROTECTS
SOCIETY FROM VIOLENT
CRIMINALS.**



**amnesty
international**

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 1977
UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS PRIZE 1978

THE FACTS

Although studies have been made of the relationship between the death penalty and rates of crime, none have produced conclusive evidence that the death penalty is a unique deterrent compared with other forms of punishment.

Some studies have shown that homicide rates have actually increased immediately after an execution.

Many crimes punishable by death are committed in times of great emotional stress, in fear or, under the influence of drugs or alcohol when the perpetrator does not think of the consequences of the crime.

THE FIGURES

A study in 1983 examined short, medium and long-term homicide rates in 14 countries after they had abolished the death penalty and found that more than half the countries showed a decline in homicides following abolition.

In 1975, the year before abolition of the death penalty in Canada, there were 701 homicides in Canada. In 1984, eight years after the abolition, there were 668 homicides.

An analysis of monthly homicide rates in New York State from 1903-1963 concluded that on average two additional homicides had taken place in the month after execution.

FIND OUT MORE

... about the facts on the death penalty by contacting your Amnesty International state office or phoning (02) 267 2075.