

“No one has proven that the death penalty even deters crime”

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, 5 November 2015



Still image grabbed from the animation produced by Amnesty International's AV Studio to illustrate the death penalty worldwide in numbers © Amnesty International

ABOLITIONIST AND RETENTIONIST COUNTRIES AS OF 20 JUNE 2016

More than two-thirds of the countries in the world have now abolished the death penalty in law or practice. The numbers are as follows:

Abolitionist for all crimes: 103

Abolitionist for ordinary crimes only: 6

Abolitionist in practice: 31

Total abolitionist in law or practice: 140

Retentionist: 58

Following are lists of countries in the four categories: **abolitionist for all crimes, abolitionist for ordinary crimes only, abolitionist in practice and retentionist.**

At the end is a list of countries which have abolished the death penalty since 1976. It shows that in the past decade, an average of over three 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.

ABOLITIONIST FOR ALL CRIMES

Countries whose laws do not provide for the death penalty for any crime.

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Cape Verde, Colombia, Congo (Republic of), Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Cote D'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, Fiji, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niue, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome And Principe, Senegal, Serbia (including Kosovo), Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Togo, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela.

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.

Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Israel, Kazakhstan, Peru.

ABOLITIONIST IN PRACTICE

Countries which 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.

Algeria, Benin, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Eritrea, Ghana, Grenada, Kenya, Laos, Liberia, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco/Western Sahara, Myanmar, Niger, Papua New Guinea, Russian Federation,¹ Sierra Leone, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Tonga, Tunisia, Zambia.

RETENTIONIST

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

Afghanistan, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Botswana, Chad, China, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cuba, Dominica, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Malaysia, Nigeria, North Korea, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine (State of), Qatar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Taiwan, Thailand, Trinidad And Tobago, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United States Of America, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

COUNTRIES THAT 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** ² abolished the death penalty for all crimes.

1989: **Cambodia, New Zealand, Romania** and **Slovenia** ³ abolished the death penalty for all crimes.

¹ The Russian Federation introduced a moratorium on executions in August 1996. However, executions were carried out between 1996 and 1999 in the Chechen Republic.

² In 1990 the German Democratic Republic became unified with the Federal Republic of Germany, where the death penalty had been abolished in 1949.

³ 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.



Still image grabbed from the animation produced by Amnesty International's AV Studio to illustrate the death penalty worldwide in numbers © Amnesty International

1990: **Andorra, Croatia**, ⁴ the **Czech and Slovak Federal Republic**, ⁵ **Hungary, Ireland, Mozambique, Namibia** and **Sao Tomé and Príncipe** abolished the death penalty for all crimes.

1991: Macedonia abolished the death penalty for all crimes.

1992: **Angola, Paraguay** and **Switzerland** abolished the death penalty for all crimes.

1993: **Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong** ⁶ 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. **Bolivian** 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: **Timor Leste, Turkmenistan** and **Ukraine** abolished the death penalty for all crimes. **Latvia** abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes.

2000: **Cote d'Ivoire** and **Malta** abolished the death penalty for all crimes. **Albania** abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes.

2001: **Bosnia-Herzegovina** abolished the death penalty for all crimes. **Chile** abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes.

2002: **Cyprus** and **Yugoslavia (Serbia, including Kosovo, and Montenegro)** ⁷ abolished the death penalty for all crimes.

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

2004: **Bhutan, Greece, Samoa, Senegal** and **Turkey** abolished the death penalty for all crimes.

⁴ 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.

⁵ In 1993 the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic divided into two states, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

⁶ In 1997 Hong Kong was returned to Chinese rule as a special administrative region of China. Since then Hong Kong has remained abolitionist.

⁷ 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. Its ratification of Protocol No. 13 to the European Convention on Human Rights, abolishing the death penalty in all circumstances, came into effect on 6 June 2006.

2005: **Liberia**⁸ and **Mexico** abolished the death penalty for all crimes.

2006: **Philippines** abolished the death penalty for all crimes.

2007: **Albania, Cook Islands, Kyrgyzstan** and **Rwanda** abolished the death penalty for all crimes. **Kazakhstan** abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes.

2008: **Uzbekistan** and **Argentina** abolished the death penalty for all crimes.

2009: **Bolivia, Burundi** and **Togo** abolished the death penalty for all crimes.

2010: **Gabon** abolished the death penalty for all crimes.

2012: **Latvia** abolished the death penalty for all crimes.

2015: **Congo (Republic of), Fiji, Madagascar** and **Suriname** abolished the death penalty for all crimes.

2016: **Nauru** abolished the death penalty for all crimes.

⁸ In 2005 Liberia ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, abolishing the death penalty for all crimes.

ANNEX I: ABOLITIONIST FOR ALL CRIMES

Country	Date (A)	Date (AO)	Date (last ex.)
ALBANIA	2007	2000	
ANDORRA	1990		1943
ANGOLA	1992		
ARGENTINA	2008	1984	
ARMENIA	2003		
AUSTRALIA	1985	1984	1967
AUSTRIA	1968	1950	1950
AZERBAIJAN	1998		1993
BELGIUM	1996		1950
BHUTAN	2004		1964K
BOLIVIA	2009	1997	1974
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA	2001	1997	
BULGARIA	1998		1989
BURUNDI	2009		
CAMBODIA	1989		
CANADA	1998	1976	1962
CAPE VERDE	1981		1835
COLOMBIA	1910		1909
CONGO (Republic of)	2015		1982
COOK ISLANDS	2007		
COSTA RICA	1877		
COTE D'IVOIRE	2000		
CROATIA	1990		1987

CYPRUS	2002	1983	1962
CZECH REPUBLIC	1990		
DENMARK	1978	1933	1950
DJIBOUTI	1995		Ind.
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	1966		
ECUADOR	1906		
ESTONIA	1998		1991
FINLAND	1972	1949	1944
FIJI	2015	1979	1964
FRANCE	1981		1977
GABON	2010		1985
GEORGIA	1997		1994K
GERMANY	1987		
GREECE	2004	1993	1972
GUINEA-BISSAU	1993		1986K
HAITI	1987		1972K
HOLY SEE	1969		
HONDURAS	1956		1940
HUNGARY	1990		1988
ICELAND	1928		1830
IRELAND	1990		1954
ITALY	1994	1947	1947
KYRGYZSTAN	2007		
KIRIBATI			Ind.
LATVIA	2012	1999	1996
LIECHTENSTEIN	1987		1785
LITHUANIA	1998		1995

LUXEMBOURG	1979		1949
MACEDONIA	1991		
MADAGASCAR	2015		1958
MALTA	2000	1971	1943
MARSHALL ISLANDS			Ind.
MAURITIUS	1995		1987
MEXICO	2005		1961
MICRONESIA			Ind.
MOLDOVA	1995		
MONACO	1962		1847
MONTENEGRO	2002		
MOZAMBIQUE	1990		1986
NAMIBIA	1990		1988K
NAURU	2016		Ind.
NEPAL	1997	1990	1979
NETHERLANDS	1982	1870	1952
NEW ZEALAND	1989	1961	1957
NICARAGUA	1979		1930
NIUE			
NORWAY	1979	1905	1948
PALAU			
PANAMA	1922		1903K
PARAGUAY	1992		1928
PHILIPPINES	2006 (1987)		2000
POLAND	1997		1988
PORTUGAL	1976	1867	1849K

ROMANIA	1989		1989
RWANDA	2007		1998
SAMOA	2004		Ind.
SAN MARINO	1865	1848	1468K
SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE	1990		Ind.
SENEGAL	2004		1967
SERBIA (Incl. Kosovo)	2002		1992
SEYCHELLES	1993		Ind.
SLOVAKIA	1990		
SLOVENIA	1989		
SOLOMON ISLANDS		1966	Ind.
SOUTH AFRICA	1997	1995	1991
SPAIN	1995	1978	1975
SURINAME	2015		1982
SWEDEN	1972	1921	1910
SWITZERLAND	1992	1942	1944
TOGO	2009		1978
TIMOR-LESTE	1999		
TURKEY	2004	2002	1984
TURKMENISTAN	1999		
TUVALU			Ind.
UKRAINE	1999		
UNITED KINGDOM	1998	1973	1964
URUGUAY	1907		
UZBEKISTAN	2008		2005
VANUATU			Ind.

VENEZUELA	1863		
-----------	------	--	--

ANNEX II: ABOLITIONIST FOR ORDINARY CRIMES ONLY

Country	Date (AO)	Date (last ex.)
BRAZIL	1979	1855
CHILE	2001	1985
EL SALVADOR	1983	1973K
ISRAEL	1954	1962
KAZAKHSTAN	2007	
PERU	1979	1979

ANNEX III: ABOLITIONIST IN PRACTICE

Country	Date (last ex.)
ALGERIA	1993
BENIN	1987
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	1957K
BURKINA FASO	1988
CAMEROON	1997
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	1981
ERITREA	1989
GHANA	1993
GRENADA	1978
KENYA	1987
LAOS	1989
LIBERIA	2000
MALAWI	1992
MALDIVES	1954
MALI	1980
MAURITANIA	1987
MONGOLIA	2008
MOROCCO/WESTERN SAHARA	1993
MYANMAR	1988
NIGER	1976K
PAPUA NEW GUINEA	1950
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	1999
SOUTH KOREA	1997
SIERRA LEONE	1998
SRI LANKA	1976

SWAZILAND	1983		
TAJIKISTAN	2004		
TANZANIA	1995		
TONGA	1982		
TUNISIA	1991		
ZAMBIA	1997		

Amnesty international is a global movement of more than 3 million supporters, members and activists in more than 150 countries and territories who campaign to end grave abuses of human rights.

Our vision is for every person to enjoy all the rights enshrined in the universal declaration of human rights and other international human rights standards. We are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest