

10 October 2007  
World Day Against  
the Death Penalty

STOP THE DEATH PENALTY: THE WORLD DECIDES

Take action  
against the death penalty:

Join the hundreds  
of initiatives worldwide

Sign the petition  
calling for a universal  
moratorium on executions

[www.worldcoalition.org](http://www.worldcoalition.org)



## STOP THE DEATH PENALTY: THE WORLD DECIDES SUPPORT A UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL MORATORIUM ON EXECUTIONS

This October the UN General Assembly will vote on a resolution on a global moratorium on executions.

This is a unique historical opportunity to take a big step towards achieving a death penalty-free world and enhancing the enjoyment of the right to life.

Please help to get the resolution adopted in the UN with a massive majority

### Lobbying ACTION POINTS

get your government to back this UN resolution

[ 1 ] Ask your government to commit now to vote in favour of the resolution and to 'co-sponsor' it at the UN General Assembly.

[ 2 ] Ask your government to take the lead in supporting the resolution, including by encouraging other governments to "co-sponsor" and vote in favour.

[ 3 ] Some government leaders that retain the death penalty have signalled that they are ready to stop executions or move towards abolition; others may be persuaded with an effective campaign. Join the lobbying of these governments to build the momentum for reform.

[ 4 ] There is a real momentum to end capital punishment in all countries: 130 countries have abolished the death penalty in law or practice. Only

25 countries actually carried out executions in 2006, and 91% of all known executions took place in a small number of countries: China, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Sudan and USA. Europe is almost a death penalty free-zone. In Africa only six states carried out executions in 2006. In the Americas only the USA has carried out executions since 2003. There is an overall decline in the number of executions worldwide: in 2006 Amnesty International recorded 1,591 executions compared to 2,148 in 2005. The trend towards abolition is clear. Outside China, an execution is becoming an increasingly rare event.

[ 5 ] Help to lobby all governments to support this initiative. As long as the death penalty is maintained, the risk of executing an innocent person can never be eliminated. In the USA alone, since 1971, 124 people facing execution have been released after evidence of their innocence came to light. There is no perfect justice system anywhere in the world but capital punishment is irreversible – there is no way back. Execution does not deter crime; it only distracts people's attention away from the need for an effective criminal justice system.

[ 6 ] Join the World Day against the Death Penalty on 10th October. The World Day will focus on the global moratorium on executions. Abolitionist from all countries will organize conferences and other events to raise awareness about the death penalty. Find all initiatives of the World Day on [www.world-coalition.org](http://www.world-coalition.org).

### CONTACT US TO HELP ORGANISE & TAKE ACTION:

Lobby your government as above. Join your local or national coalition against the Death Penalty. Sign up to the global petition on moratorium on executions at [www.worldcoalition.org](http://www.worldcoalition.org); and promote it. Join the events organized for the World Day Against Death Penalty on 10th October.

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