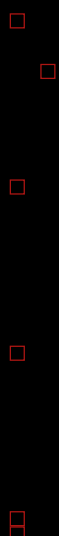


AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL REPORT

DEATH SENTENCES

AND EXECUTIONS

2022



AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S FIGURES ON THE USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY

This report covers the judicial use of the death penalty for the period January to December 2022. As in previous years, information is collected from a variety of sources, including: official figures; judgments; information from individuals sentenced to death and their families and representatives; media reports; and, as specified, other civil society organizations. Amnesty International reports only on executions, death sentences and other aspects of the use of the death penalty, such as commutations and exonerations, where there is reasonable confirmation. In many countries governments do not publish information on their use of the death penalty. In China and Viet Nam, data on the use of the death penalty is classified as a state secret, while little or no information was available on some other countries due to restrictive state practice.

Therefore, for a significant number of countries, Amnesty International's figures on the use of the death penalty are minimum figures. The true overall numbers are likely to be higher.

In 2009 Amnesty International stopped publishing its estimated figures on the use of the death penalty in China, a decision that reflected concerns about how the Chinese authorities misrepresented Amnesty International's numbers. Amnesty International always made clear that the figures it was able to publish on China were significantly lower than the reality, because of the restrictions on access to information. China has yet to publish any figures on the death penalty; however, available information indicates that each year thousands of people are executed and sentenced to death. Amnesty International renews its call on the Chinese authorities to publish information on the use of the death penalty in China.

Where Amnesty International receives and is able to verify new information after publication of this report, it updates its figures online at [amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/death-penalty](https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/death-penalty)

In tables and lists, where “+” appears after a figure next to the name of a country – for example, Malaysia (16+) – it means that Amnesty International confirmed 16 executions, death sentences or persons under sentence of death in Malaysia but believes that there were more than 16. Where “+” appears after a country name without a figure – for instance, Syria (+) – it means that Amnesty International has corroborated executions, death sentences or persons under sentence of death (more than one) in that country but had insufficient information to provide a credible minimum figure. When calculating global and regional totals, “+” has been counted as two, including for China.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases without exception regardless of the nature or circumstances of the crime; guilt, innocence or other characteristics of the individual; or the method used by the state to carry out the execution. The organization campaigns for total abolition of the death penalty.

Four countries – China, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Singapore – executed people for drug-related offences in violation of international human rights law which prohibits the use of the death penalty for crimes that do not meet the threshold of “most serious crimes” (that is, crimes that involve intentional killing).³ Executions for these offences were very likely to have been carried out in Viet Nam, but secrecy prevented confirmation. At the end of 2022, 325 executions were recorded for drug-related offences. The number more than doubled the 134 executions recorded for the crime in 2021 and represented 37% of known global executions in 2022. Of the 325 confirmed executions, 255 were recorded in Iran – where drug-related offences accounted for 44% of known executions carried out in 2022 in the country; 57 recorded in Saudi Arabia – where a moratorium on executions for drug-related offences, which the Saudi Human Rights Commission had said was put in place in 2020, ended in 2022; and 11 recorded in Singapore – where executions resumed in 2022 and all executions in the year were for drug-related offences. Amnesty International confirmed executions were carried out for drug-related offences in China but had insufficient information to provide a credible minimum figure.⁴ The escalation in the use of the death penalty for drug-related offences is of grave concern to Amnesty International as it is a violation of the right to life, undermines international human rights law and constitutes a threat to the global progress already made against the death penalty.

Notwithstanding the drawbacks documented, remarkable progress against the death penalty was made in 2022. Without doubt, the world continued to move away from the death penalty and only a minority of countries – that are increasingly becoming isolated – actively used the punishment. Six countries abolished the death penalty either fully or partially in 2022.

Four countries – Kazakhstan, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone and the Central African Republic – abolished the death penalty for all crimes. In Kazakhstan, a law that abolished the death penalty was officially promulgated in January. By April, amendments to the Criminal Code which removed the death penalty for all crimes became effective in Papua New Guinea. On 21 April 2022, the Abolition of the Death Penalty Act 2021 which removed the death penalty from the laws of Sierra Leone was officially promulgated. On 27 June 2022, President Faustin-Archange Touadéra of Central African Republic signed into law a bill abolishing the death penalty which the National Assembly had passed a month before. By the end of 2022, two countries – Equatorial Guinea and Zambia – had abolished the death penalty for ordinary crimes only. Amnesty International considered these positive actions partial abolitions due to the death penalty remaining in the military laws of the two countries at the end of the year. In 1977, when Amnesty International started its global campaign for the worldwide abolition of the death penalty, only 16 countries had abolished the death penalty for all crimes. At the end of 2022, 112 countries were abolitionist for all crimes and 9 were abolitionist for ordinary crimes only.⁵

Furthermore, Kazakhstan – without any reservations – became a state party to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. Gambia, Maldives and Sri Lanka continued to observe official moratoriums on executions. In Asia, the authorities of Malaysia took steps towards reforming the mandatory death penalty; and the Parliament of Indonesia adopted a new Criminal Code that, once effective in 2026, would allow for the commutation of death sentences after 10 years if certain conditions are met. In the sub-Saharan Africa region, legislative steps towards the abolition of the death penalty were taken. The Senate of Liberia, in July, unanimously voted to abolish the death penalty in a penal code bill which was pending before the House of Representatives at the end of 2022. In Ghana, legislative work continued on a bill to amend the Criminal Offences Act 1960 and the Armed Forces Act 1962 to remove death penalty provisions from the two laws.

³ Human Rights Committee, General Comment No. 36 on Article 6: Right to Life, UN Doc. CCPR/C/GC/36 para35.

⁴ In calculating the global total of executions carried out for drug-related offences, two were counted for China in accordance with Amnesty International's research methodology.

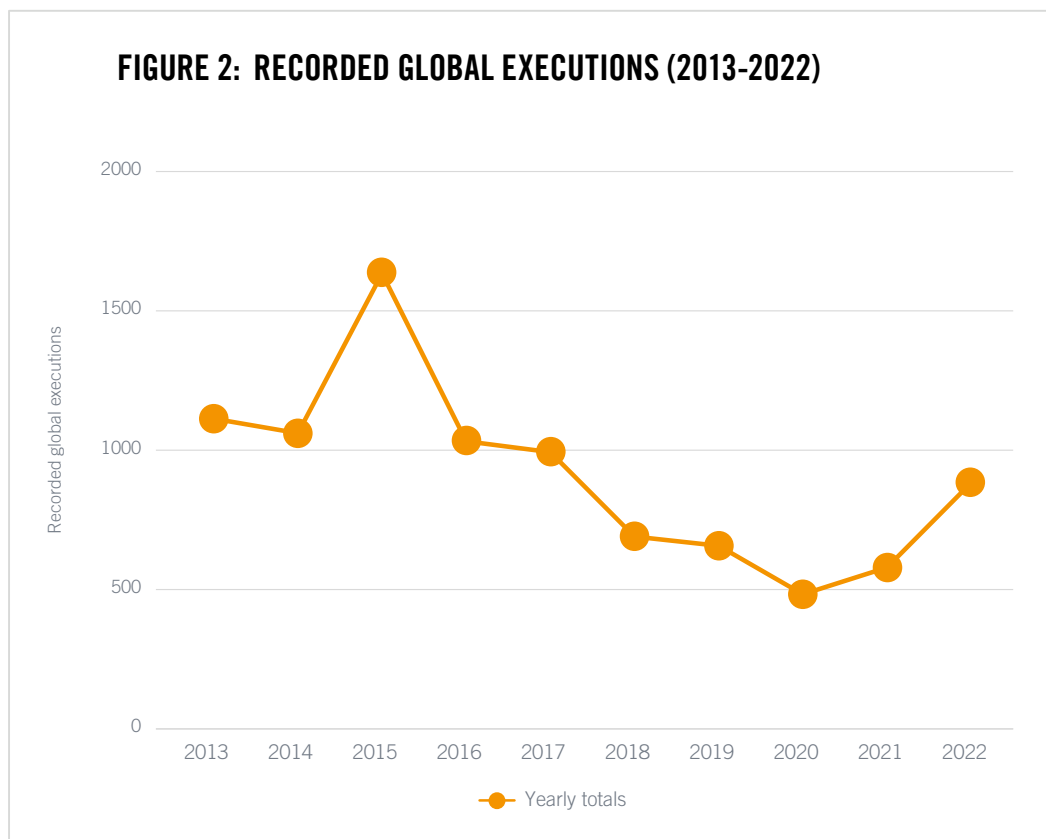
⁵ Amnesty International, “*Abolitionist and retentionist countries (as of April 2023)*” (Index: ACT50/6591/2023), April 2023, [amnesty.org/en/documents/act50/6591/2023/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act50/6591/2023/en/)

Similar to previous years, the global recorded totals do not include the thousands of executions that Amnesty International believed were carried out in China, where data on the death penalty is classified as a state secret.⁸

In comparison to 2021 records, executions reduced significantly in Egypt (from 83+ to 24), Iraq (from 17+ to 11+), Japan (from 3 to 1), Somalia (from 21+ to 6+), South Sudan (from 9+ to 5+) and Yemen (from 14+ to 4+). In contrast, Amnesty International recorded notable increases in executions in Iran (from 314+ to 576+), Kuwait (from 0 to 7), Myanmar (from 0 to 4), Palestine (State of) (from 0 to 5), Saudi Arabia (from 65 to 196), Singapore (from 0 to 11) and USA (from 11 to 18).

Three countries – Egypt (24), Iran (at least 576) and Saudi Arabia (196) – accounted for 90% of all known executions. Increases in recorded executions for murder and drug-related offences were largely responsible for the spike in Iran: recorded executions for murder had risen sharply by 75% from 159 in 2021 to 279 in 2022; and rose significantly for drug-related offences by 93% from 132 in 2021 to 255 in 2022. The 196 executions in Saudi Arabia were the highest recorded by Amnesty International in the country in 30 years. The increase in recorded executions for terrorism-related offences and the resumption of executions for drug-related offences were mainly responsible for the significant increase in executions in Saudi Arabia: recorded executions for terrorism-related offences rose from 9 in 2021 to 85 in 2022; and for drug-related offences from 0 in 2021 to 57 in 2022.

Thirteen women were among the 883 people known to have been executed in 2022 as follows: Iran (12), Saudi Arabia (1).



⁸ In 2009 Amnesty International stopped publishing its estimated figures on the use of the death penalty in China. Instead, the organization has challenged the authorities to prove their claims that they are achieving their goal of reducing the application of the death penalty by publishing the figures themselves. Little or partial information was available for several other countries (see Note on Amnesty International's figures on the use of the death penalty in this report for further information).

DEATH SENTENCES

The total number of death sentences recorded by Amnesty International in 2022 decreased slightly on the 2021 global figure. At least 2,016 new death sentences were imposed, compared to at least 2,052 in 2021. However, variations in the nature and availability of information on death sentences for some countries make the evaluation of this global total in comparison with those of previous years methodologically challenging.

Amnesty International did not receive information on official figures for death sentences imposed in Nigeria and Sri Lanka, countries that reported high official numbers of death sentences in previous years. On the other hand, the authorities of Thailand provided Amnesty International with figures for new death sentences imposed by courts of first instance, unlike in previous years.

In 2022, death sentences were confirmed in 52 countries, four less than in 2021, when 56 countries were known to have imposed death sentences. Five countries were known to have imposed death sentences after a hiatus – Bahrain, Comoros, Laos, Niger and South Korea. No new death sentences were recorded in Belarus, Cameroon, Japan, Malawi, Morocco/Western Sahara, Oman, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zimbabwe – all countries that were known to have sentenced people to death in 2021.



DEATH SENTENCES RECORDED GLOBALLY IN 2022

Afghanistan (+), Algeria (54), Bahrain (2+), Bangladesh (169+), Botswana (1), China (+), Comoros (2), Democratic Republic of the Congo (76+), Egypt (538), Ethiopia (2+), Gambia (9), Ghana (7), Guyana (4), India (165), Indonesia (112+), Iran (+), Iraq (41+), Jordan (4+), Kenya (79), Kuwait (16+), Laos (5+), Lebanon (2+), Libya (18+), Malaysia (16+), Maldives (1), Mali (8+), Mauritania (5+), Myanmar (37+), Nigeria (77+), Niger (4+), North Korea (+), Pakistan (127+), Palestine (State of) (28), Qatar (+), Saudi Arabia (12+), Singapore (5), Somalia (10+), South Korea (1), South Sudan (4+), Sri Lanka (8+), Sudan (1+), Syria (+), Taiwan (3), Tanzania (11), Thailand (104), Trinidad and Tobago (5+), Tunisia (26+), UAE (2+), USA (21), Viet Nam (102+), Yemen (78+), Zambia (2+).

Amnesty International recorded a significant increase in the number of death sentences imposed in 2022 compared to 2021 in the following countries: Algeria (from 9 to 54), Egypt (from 356+ to 538), India (from 144 to 165), Kenya (from 14 to 79), Kuwait (from 5+ to 16+), Nigeria (from 56+ to 77+), Tunisia (from 3+ to 26+). Significant decreases in the number of death sentences imposed were recorded in the following countries: Bangladesh (from 181+ to 169+), Iraq (from 91+ to 41+), Lebanon (from 12+ to 2+), Malawi (from 11+ to 0), Mali (from 48 to 8+), Mauritania (from 60 to 5+), Myanmar (from 86+ to 37+), Sierra Leone (from 23 to 0), Somalia (from 27+ to 10+), Viet Nam (from 119+ to 102+), Yemen (from 298+ to 78+).

Globally, at least 28,282 people were under sentence of death at the end of 2022.¹¹

¹¹ For several countries where Amnesty International believed a high number of prisoners were under sentence of death, figures were not available or it was impossible to estimate a credible number. These included China, Egypt, Iran, Libya, North Korea and Saudi Arabia.

THE DEATH PENALTY IN 2022: IN VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW (CONTINUED)



- **Mandatory death sentences** were imposed in Afghanistan, Ghana, Iran, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and Trinidad and Tobago.¹⁵
- **Military courts sentenced** civilians to death in Egypt, Libya, Myanmar and Pakistan. **Special Courts** imposed death sentences in Bangladesh, India, Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.
- The death penalty was used for **crimes that did not involve intentional killing**, and therefore did not meet the threshold of “most serious crimes” under international law:¹⁶
 - **Drug-related offences:** Execution for drug-related offences were recorded in China (+),¹⁷ Iran (255), Saudi Arabia (57) and Singapore (11); the total number of 325 constituted 37% of total executions recorded globally. Information on Viet Nam, which is very likely to have carried out such executions, was unavailable
 - 213 new death sentences known to have been imposed in 9 countries: Bangladesh (6), Egypt (1), China (+),¹⁸ Indonesia (105), Laos (5), Malaysia (8), Pakistan (1), Singapore (5) and Viet Nam (80). In Thailand, of the 195 total number of people under sentence of death at the end of 2022, 121 including 14 women had been convicted of drug-related offences
 - **Economic crimes, such as corruption:** China and Viet Nam.
 - **Apostacy:** Libya
 - **Kidnapping:** Iran and Saudi Arabia
 - **Rape:** Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Iran, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.
 - Different forms of “**treason**”, “**acts against national security**”, “**collaboration**” with a foreign entity, “**espionage**”, “**questioning the leader’s policies**”, participation in “**insurrectional movement and terrorism**”, “**armed rebellion against the ruler**” and other “**crimes against the state**”, whether or not they led to a loss of life: Iran and Saudi Arabia.

¹⁵ The UN Human Rights Committee has stated that “mandatory death sentences that leave domestic courts with no discretion as to whether to designate the offence as a crime warranting the death penalty, and whether to issue the death sentence in the particular circumstances of the offender, are arbitrary in nature.” Human Rights Committee, General Comment No. 36 on Article 6: Right to Life, UN Doc. CCPR/C/GC/36 [3 September 2019], para. 37.

¹⁶ As prescribed by Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; Human Rights Committee, General Comment No. 36 on Article 6: Right to Life, UN Doc. CCPR/C/GC/36 para35.

¹⁷ When calculating global and regional totals, “+” has been counted as two.

¹⁸ When calculating global and regional totals, “+” has been counted as two.

REGIONAL OVERVIEWS

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REGIONAL TRENDS

- Outgoing Governor of Oregon Kate Brown commuted all of this US state's remaining death sentences¹⁹
- Yearly totals of US death sentences and executions increased, but remained among historically low figures
- For the sixth consecutive year, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and the USA were the only three countries in the Americas known to have imposed new death sentences; for the 14th consecutive year, the USA was the only country in the region to execute people

COUNTRY	2022 RECORDED EXECUTIONS	2022 RECORDED DEATH SENTENCES	PEOPLE KNOWN TO BE UNDER SENTENCE OF DEATH AT THE END OF 2022
Antigua and Barbuda	0	0	0
Bahamas	0	0	0
Barbados	0	0	5
Belize	0	0	0
Cuba	0	0	0
Dominica	0	0	0
Grenada	0	0	1
Guatemala	0	0	0
Guyana	0	4	17
Jamaica	0	0	0
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0	0	0
Saint Lucia	0	0	0
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0	0	1
Trinidad and Tobago	0	5+	43

¹⁹ *Oregon Capital Chronicle*, "Oregon Gov. Kate Brown commutes 17 death sentences, ending death row", 13 December 2022, oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2022/12/13/oregon-gov-kate-brown-commutes-17-death-sentences-ending-death-row/

Six US states executed people during 2022. Arizona conducted executions for the first time since 2014, putting to death three men. The authorities of the other five states had all carried out executions in 2021, with most reporting an increase in 2022 on their previous year's tally: Alabama (from one in 2021 to two in 2022), Mississippi (one in 2021 and one in 2022), Missouri (from one to two), Oklahoma (from two to five), Texas (from three to five). Oklahoma – where 10 executions had initially been set for 2022²² – and Texas together carried out more than half the total of US executions in 2022. The Supreme Court of South Carolina intervened in April to halt the state's first executions since 2011, which were set to be carried out by firing squad.²³

Figures compiled by the Death Penalty Information Center in Washington, DC, USA, indicated that the number of execution warrants sought in 2022 (55) was significantly higher than in 2021 (45).²⁴

Challenges with the sourcing of substances and amended protocols for lethal injections continued to cause a hiatus in executions in several other states.²⁵ Idaho completed 10 years without executions in June 2022, despite attempts by the state authorities to – unsuccessfully – resume executions.²⁶ The Governor of Tennessee, Bill Lee, suspended executions and ordered an independent review, after he had to intervene a month earlier to halt an execution one hour before it was due to be carried out due to “a technical oversight” related to the substances for lethal injection.²⁷ Later in the year, the Governor of Alabama, Kay Ivey, temporarily halted all executions and ordered a system-wide review, after two failed attempts to carry out executions by lethal injection.²⁸ Ohio executions remained on hold, with its Governor, Mike DeWine, issuing reprieves because of ongoing issues with the state lethal injection method.²⁹

New death sentences imposed by US courts slightly increased compared to previous years, rising from 18 in both 2020 and 2021 to 21 in 2022, but remained the second-lowest figure since executions resumed under revised laws after the US Supreme Court ruled the application of the death penalty under the then existing statutes unconstitutional in 1972.³⁰

The number of states imposing death sentences in 2022 (12) nearly doubled compared to 2021 (seven). Courts in Arizona, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina and Pennsylvania imposed death sentences after a hiatus;³¹ while in Nebraska and Tennessee courts did not sentence people to death in 2022, while they had done so in the previous year.

²² Death Penalty Information Center, “Outcomes of Death Warrants in 2022”, <https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/stories/outcomes-of-death-warrants-in-2022>; *Newsweek*, “Oklahoma Execution Dates as State Plans to Kill Inmate Nearly Every Month”, 5 July 2022, <https://www.newsweek.com/oklahoma-execution-dates-state-plans-kill-inmate-nearly-every-month-1721724>

²³ CNN, “South Carolina’s highest court stays firing squad execution set for next week”, 20 April 2022, edition.cnn.com/2022/04/20/us/south-carolina-execution-firing-squad-stay/index.html

²⁴ Death Penalty Information Center, Outcomes of Death Warrants in 2022, <https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/stories/outcomes-of-death-warrants-in-2022>

²⁵ In addition to Ohio, executions in 2022 were completely or in part on hold in several jurisdictions, including in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Nebraska, Nevada and South Carolina, because of litigation and other challenges relating to lethal injection procedures.

²⁶ Idaho Department of Corrections, “IDOC director suspends preparation for Dec. 15 execution”, 30 November 2022, idoc.idaho.gov/content/news/idoc-director-suspends-preparation-dec-15-execution#:~:text=15%20execution,-IDOC%20news%20release&text=Nov.,scheduled%20execution%20of%20Gerald%20Pizzuto.

²⁷ TN Office of the Governor, “Gov. Lee Calls for Independent Review Following Smith Reprieve”, 2 May 2022, tn.gov/governor/news/2022/5/2/gov-lee-calls-for-independent-review-following-smith-reprieve.html

²⁸ Al.com, “Gov. Kay Ivey orders moratorium on executions in Alabama”, 22 November 2022, al.com/news/2022/11/gov-kay-ivey-orders-moratorium-on-executions-in-alabama.html

²⁹ Mike DeWine Governor of Ohio, “Governor DeWine Issues Reprieves”, 1 July 2022, governor.ohio.gov/media/news-and-media/Governor-DeWine-Issues-Reprieves-07012022

³⁰ US Supreme Court, *Furman v. Georgia*, 408 U.S. 238 (1972).

³¹ Before 2022, Arizona and Mississippi imposed their last death sentences in 2020; Georgia, North Carolina and Pennsylvania in 2019; and Louisiana and Missouri in 2018.

Several cases of those who faced executions in 2022 were affected by violations of restrictions on the use of the death penalty established under international human rights law and standards, including concerns of unfair trial;³³ racial discrimination and bias;³⁴ and breach of protections for those with psycho-social (mental) and intellectual disabilities.³⁵

Two men who had been previously convicted and sentenced to death had the charges against them dismissed in Illinois and Pennsylvania, after the courts considered evidence of inadequate legal representation and official misconduct in their cases, bringing the total number of such exonerations since 1973 by year end to 190.³⁶

Outside the USA, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago imposed the only other known nine death sentences in the Americas region. Trinidad and Tobago – the only country in the region to retain the mandatory death penalty for murder – held more than half (64%) of the 67 people known to be under sentence of death outside the USA.

Nine countries – Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Guatemala, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia – did not hold anyone under sentence of death and did not impose any new death sentences. Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines each continued to hold one person formally under sentence of death, but neither death sentence can be implemented due to court rulings.

The Court of Appeal of Guyana and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (the final appellate court of Trinidad and Tobago) upheld the constitutionality of the death penalty in Guyana and of the mandatory death penalty in Trinidad and Tobago, respectively.³⁷

³³ Amnesty International, “USA: Further Information: Texas appeals court blocks execution – Melissa Lucio” (Urgent Action, AI Index: AMR 51/5513/2022), 27 April 2022, [amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/5513/2022/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/5513/2022/en/)

³⁴ Amnesty International, “USA: Second Texas execution of 2023 goes ahead” (Urgent Action, AI Index: AMR 51/6417/2023), 2 February 2022, [amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/6417/2023/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/6417/2023/en/)

³⁵ Amnesty International, “USA: Man with mental disability executed – Benjamin Cole” (Urgent Action, AI Index: AMR 51/6140/2023), 21 October 2022, [amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/6140/2022/en/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/amr51/6140/2022/en/)

³⁶ For more information see Death Penalty Information Center, deathpenaltyinfo.org/policy-issues/innocence-database

³⁷ *Guyana Times*, “Appeal Court quashes death sentences imposed on 3 ex-GDF Coast Guards”, 22 December 2022, guyanatimesgy.com/appeal-court-quashes-death-sentence-imposed-on-3-ex-gdf-coast-guards/; Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, *Jay Chandler v. The State No 2 (Trinidad and Tobago)*, [2022] UKPC 19, 16 May 2022, jpcpc.uk/cases/docs/jcpc-2020-0051-judgment.pdf

COUNTRY	2022 RECORDED EXECUTIONS	2022 RECORDED DEATH SENTENCES	PEOPLE KNOWN TO BE UNDER SENTENCE OF DEATH AT THE END OF 2022
Pakistan	0	127+	3,831+ ⁴⁰
Papua New Guinea	0	0	28
Singapore	11	5	50+
South Korea	0	1	60
Sri Lanka	0	8+	1,000+
Taiwan	0	3	45
Thailand	0	104	195
Tonga	0	0	0
Viet Nam	+	102+	1200+

The year began with debates before the parliament of Papua New Guinea on a bill to amend the Criminal Code and remove the death penalty for all crimes. The Parliament adopted the bill on 20 January 2022, which became effective on 12 April 2022.⁴¹ Further positive commitments were made by other administrations in the Asia-Pacific region during the year: Imran Abdulla, Minister of Home Affairs of Maldives, confirmed before Parliament in June that the government would continue to observe its policy of a moratorium on the implementation of the death penalty;⁴² and Ranil Wickremesinghe, President of Sri Lanka, confirmed through an undertaking to the Supreme Court in an ongoing legal challenge that he would not authorize the implementation of the death penalty.⁴³ Moreover, the authorities of Malaysia took steps towards reforming the mandatory death penalty and the Parliament of Indonesia adopted a new Criminal Code that, once effective in 2026, would allow for the commutation of death sentences after 10 years if certain conditions are met.

On the other hand, the number of countries known to have carried out executions in the region during the year increased from five in 2021 to eight in 2022. The military authorities carried out the first executions in Myanmar in four decades, arbitrarily depriving four people of their lives after grossly unfair and secretive proceedings.⁴⁴ The Taliban authorities resumed judicial executions, including publicly, in Afghanistan, after none were recorded in the country for the previous three years.⁴⁵

⁴⁰ Justice Project Pakistan, Submission to the United Nations Secretary-General's Report on a Moratorium on the Use of the Death Penalty: Information for the Secretary-General's report to the United Nations General Assembly's 77th Session, April 2022.

⁴¹ Parliament of Papua New Guinea, Criminal Code (Amendment) Act, Act no.10 of 2022.

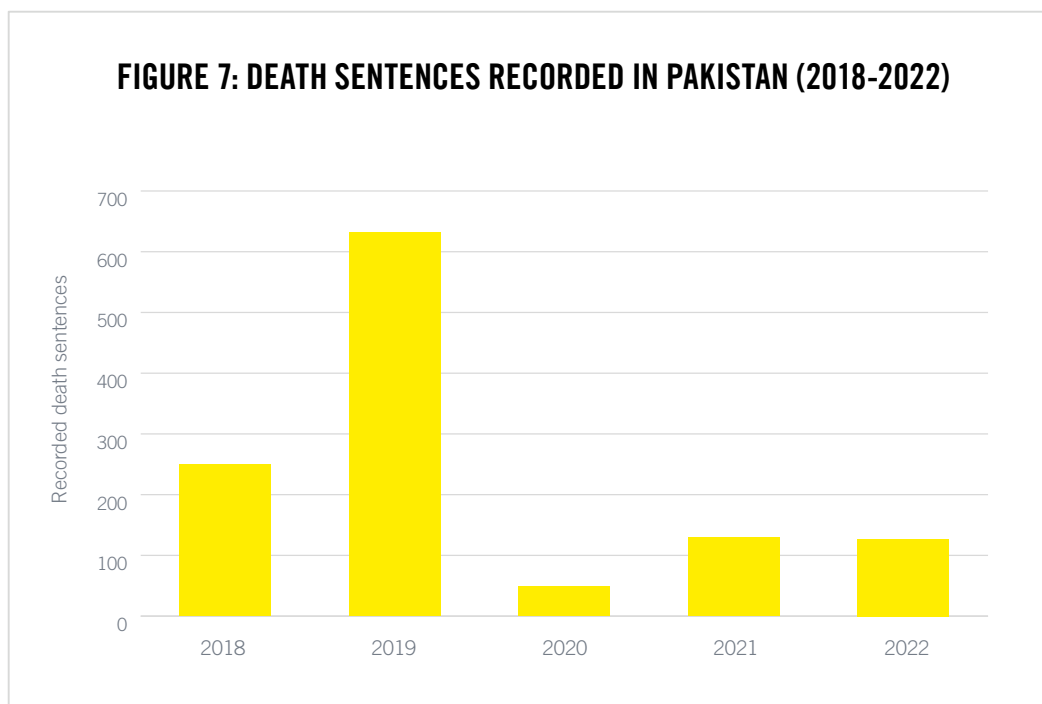
⁴² *The Edition*, "Maldives to continue moratorium on death penalty: Home Minister", 6 June 2022, edition.mv/imran_abdulla_home_minister/24877

⁴³ *Colombo Page*, "President informs the Supreme Court that he will not sign the death sentences", 1 September 2022, colombopage.com/archive_22B/Sep01_1662007289CH.php

⁴⁴ Amnesty International, "Myanmar: First executions in decades mark atrocious escalation in state repression", 25 July 2022, [amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/07/myanmar-first-executions-in-decades-mark-atrocious-escalation-in-state-repression/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/07/myanmar-first-executions-in-decades-mark-atrocious-escalation-in-state-repression/)

⁴⁵ Afghanistan: Amnesty International condemns public execution by the Taliban, 7 December 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/12/afghanistan-amnesty-international-condemns-public-execution-by-the-taliban/>

FIGURE 7: DEATH SENTENCES RECORDED IN PAKISTAN (2018-2022)



The number of countries known to have sentenced people to death in 2022 (17) slightly increased compared to 2021 and 2020 (16). Courts in Laos and South Korea were known to have imposed death sentences in 2022, while none were recorded in these countries for 2021. No new death sentences were known to have been imposed in Japan in 2022, while three people were sentenced to hanging in 2021.

Secrecy surrounding figures and limited access to information in China, North Korea and Viet Nam, as well as lack of transparency in several other countries, made it impossible to verify reports and assess the true extent of the use of the death penalty in the region. Based on its monitoring, Amnesty International believed that the number of death sentences imposed and executions carried out in China during the year remained in the thousands. Similarly, lack of access to North Korea and independent media sources continued to make it impossible for Amnesty International to verify reports and information it received on the use of the death penalty in this country. Amnesty International considers it very likely that executions were carried out, including publicly, and that death sentences were imposed at a sustained rate including after summary trials. There were concerns that the death penalty was used for a range of acts that either did not meet the threshold of the “most serious crimes” to which the use of the death penalty must be restricted under international law, or which could not be considered to constitute recognizable criminal offences complying with international human rights law requirements. Partial disclosures in Laos and Viet Nam suggested that these countries resorted to the death penalty extensively, but it was impossible on the basis of this incomplete information to determine estimates for the year. Therefore the figures included in this report are based on Amnesty International’s monitoring.

Economic crimes, such as corruption, which also do not meet the threshold of the “most serious crimes” under international law and standards, were punished by death in China and Viet Nam during the year. Amnesty International recorded 10 cases involving former officials who were convicted of corruption in China and received a “suspended” death sentence – with the possibility of commutation after two years – in an apparent increase compared to previous years.

Sentences related to sexual offences not resulting in death, which also do not meet the threshold of the “most serious crimes”, were recorded in several countries including Bangladesh (13), India (5)⁵³ and Pakistan (7).

Amnesty International recorded four new death sentences imposed in Pakistan for “blasphemy”, an act that does not constitute a recognizable criminal offence complying with requirements under international human rights law.

People who were below 18 years of age at the time of the offence for which they had been convicted remained under sentence of death in Maldives. A man with an intellectual disability was executed in Singapore in April.⁵⁴

In many countries across the Asia-Pacific region, Amnesty International was concerned that proceedings did not meet international standards for a fair trial. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan raised serious concerns in relation to the independence and qualifications of those appointed by the Taliban to adjudicate cases, the frequent lack of separation between investigating officials and the judiciary, as well as over the common lack of due process.⁵⁵

Death sentences were imposed by courts established under emergency legislation or to try specific offences instead of ordinary courts, including through expedited proceedings in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. Among other examples, in Bangladesh 14 death sentences were imposed on people convicted and sentenced by the International Crimes Tribunal, a Bangladeshi court established to investigate war crimes and other gross violations of human rights committed during the country’s 1971 War of Independence. On 29 November, the Parliament of Singapore adopted the Post-appeal Applications in Capital Cases Bill,⁵⁶ introducing a new procedure for post-appeal applications in capital cases which further restricts the circumstances in which those facing the death penalty can apply for a review of the case after the ordinary appeals process is concluded. This had the effect of curtailing the grounds and modalities for critical last-minute appeals to halt executions.

⁵³ Project 39A, *Death Penalty in India: Annual Statistics Report 2022*, January 2023, project39a.com/annual-statistics-reports, p.17.

⁵⁴ Amnesty International, “Singapore: Abhorrent hangings must end as man with intellectual disability executed”, 27 April 2022, [amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/04/singapore-abhorrent-hangings-must-end-as-man-with-intellectual-disability-executed/](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/04/singapore-abhorrent-hangings-must-end-as-man-with-intellectual-disability-executed/)

⁵⁵ Human Rights Council, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, Richard Bennett (Advance Edited Version), UN Doc. A/HRC/52/84, 9 February 2023, para. 51.

⁵⁶ Parliament of Singapore, Bill No. 34/2022, parliament.gov.sg/docs/default-source/default-document-library/post-appeal-applications-in-capital-cases-bill-34-2022.pdf

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

REGIONAL TRENDS

- Recorded executions increased by 59%.
- 94% of executions recorded in the region were carried out in Iran (70%) and Saudi Arabia (24%).
- Executions resumed in Kuwait and the State of Palestine for the first time since 2017.
- Recorded death sentences decreased slightly and were imposed in 16 countries, down from 17 in 2021.

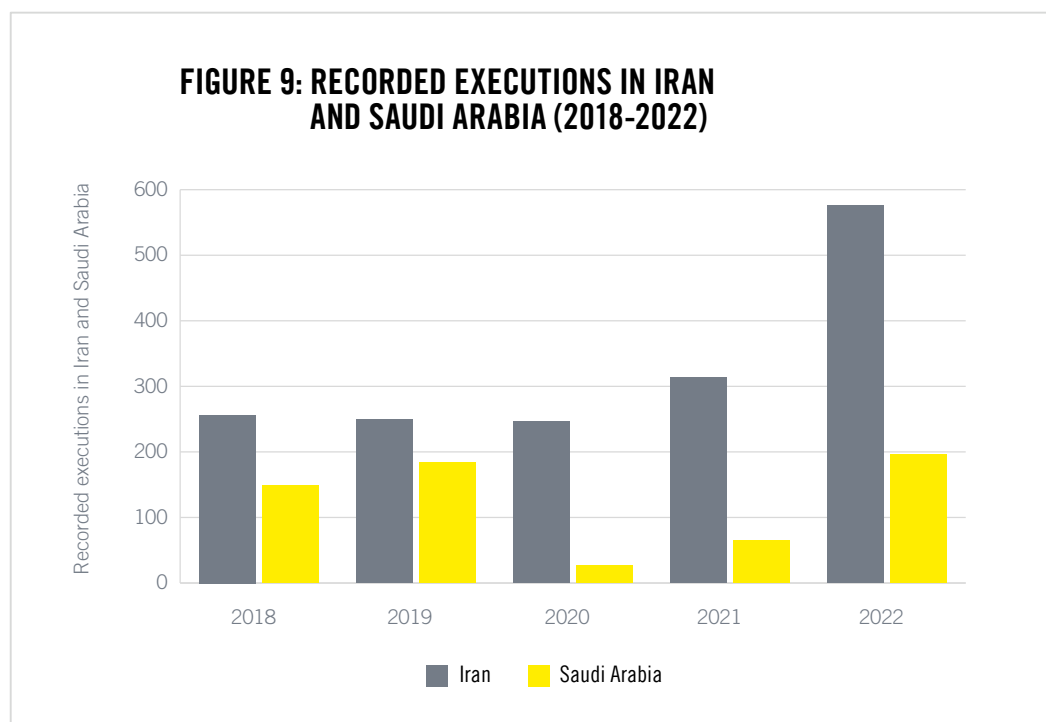
COUNTRY	2022 RECORDED EXECUTIONS	2022 RECORDED DEATH SENTENCES	PEOPLE KNOWN TO BE UNDER SENTENCE OF DEATH AT THE END OF 2022
Algeria	0	54	+
Bahrain	0	2+	41+
Egypt	24	538	+
Iran	576+	+	+
Iraq	11+	41+	7,900+
Israel ⁶⁶	0	0	0
Jordan	0	4+	219+
Kuwait	7	16+	24+
Lebanon	0	2+	+
Libya	0	18+ ⁶⁷	18+
Morocco/Western Sahara	0	0	82
Oman	0	0	+
Palestine (State of)	5 ⁶⁸	28	238+
Qatar	0	+	+
Saudi Arabia	196	12+	21+
Syria	+	+	+
Tunisia	0	26+	115+
United Arab Emirates	0	2+	11+
Yemen	4+	78+	84+

⁶⁶ Amnesty International classifies Israel as abolitionist for ordinary crimes because its laws provide for the death penalty only for exceptional crimes such as crimes under military law or crimes committed in exceptional circumstances. The last execution took place in 1962.

⁶⁷ The 18 recorded death sentences were imposed by courts in western Libya, in areas under the control of the Government of National Unity (GNU). Amnesty International was able to confirm that death sentences were also passed by military courts in eastern Libya in territories under the de facto control of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces (LAAF) armed group. However, given that proceedings by such courts are shrouded in secrecy and independent observers are not granted access, Amnesty International is not able to provide a credible minimum figure on the number of death sentences passed. No executions had been carried out in Libya since the 2011-armed conflict.

⁶⁸ These executions were carried out by the Hamas de facto administration in the Gaza Strip.

Amnesty International recorded 576 executions in Iran, an increase of 83% compared to 2021 when 314 executions were recorded.⁷⁰ Of the 576 executions recorded by Amnesty International, 279 (48%) were for murder; 255 (44%) were for drug-related offences; 21 were for rape; 18 were for *moharebeh* (enmity against God);⁷¹ and three were for unknown crimes. Two executions were carried out in public, and 12 women were executed. During the year, the Iranian authorities executed five people who were under the age of 18 at the time of the offence for which they had been convicted.⁷² Increases in recorded executions for murder and drug-related offences were largely responsible for the 83% spike in recorded executions in Iran. Recorded executions for murder had risen sharply by 75% from 159 in 2021 to 279 in 2022; and spiked for drug-related offences by 93%, from 132 in 2021 to 255 in 2022.⁷³ The Iranian authorities continued to use the death penalty as a tool of political repression and to disproportionately execute members of ethnic minorities as part of the long-term, entrenched discrimination and repression of these groups.⁷⁴



⁷⁰ Many of the executions carried out in Iran in 2022 followed grossly unfair trials.

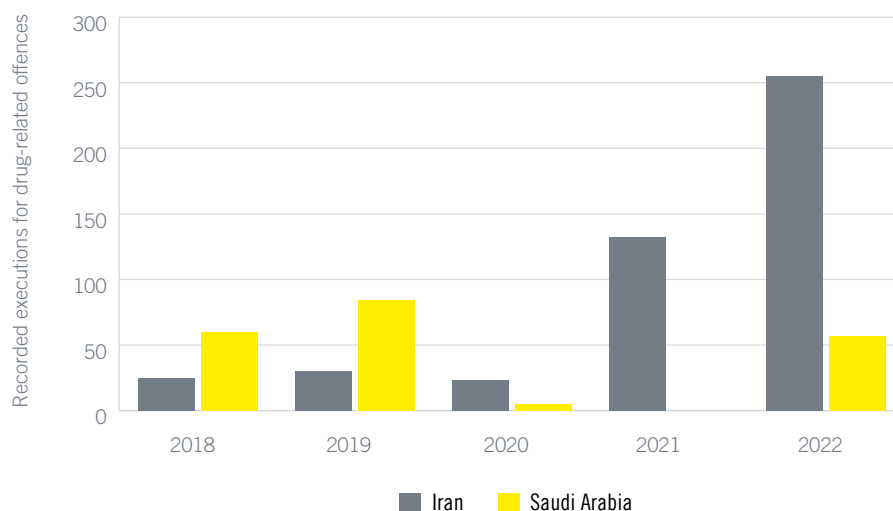
⁷¹ Two were in relation to the nationwide protests that have erupted in Iran since 16 September 2022.

⁷² International human rights law strictly prohibits the use of the death penalty for people who were below the age of 18 at the time of the offence for which they have been convicted.

⁷³ Between 2018 and 2020, the authorities considerably reduced drug-related executions. However, in 2021, at least 132 people were executed for drug-related offences, accounting for 42% of overall recorded executions and representing more than a five-fold rise from 2020 (23). The law still provides for a mandatory death penalty once courts convict a person of being in possession of specific amounts of drugs; the amount varies according to the type of drug.

⁷⁴ Amnesty International, *Iran: Horrific wave of executions must be stopped* (News story, 27 July 2022), <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/07/iran-horrific-wave-of-executions-must-be-stopped>

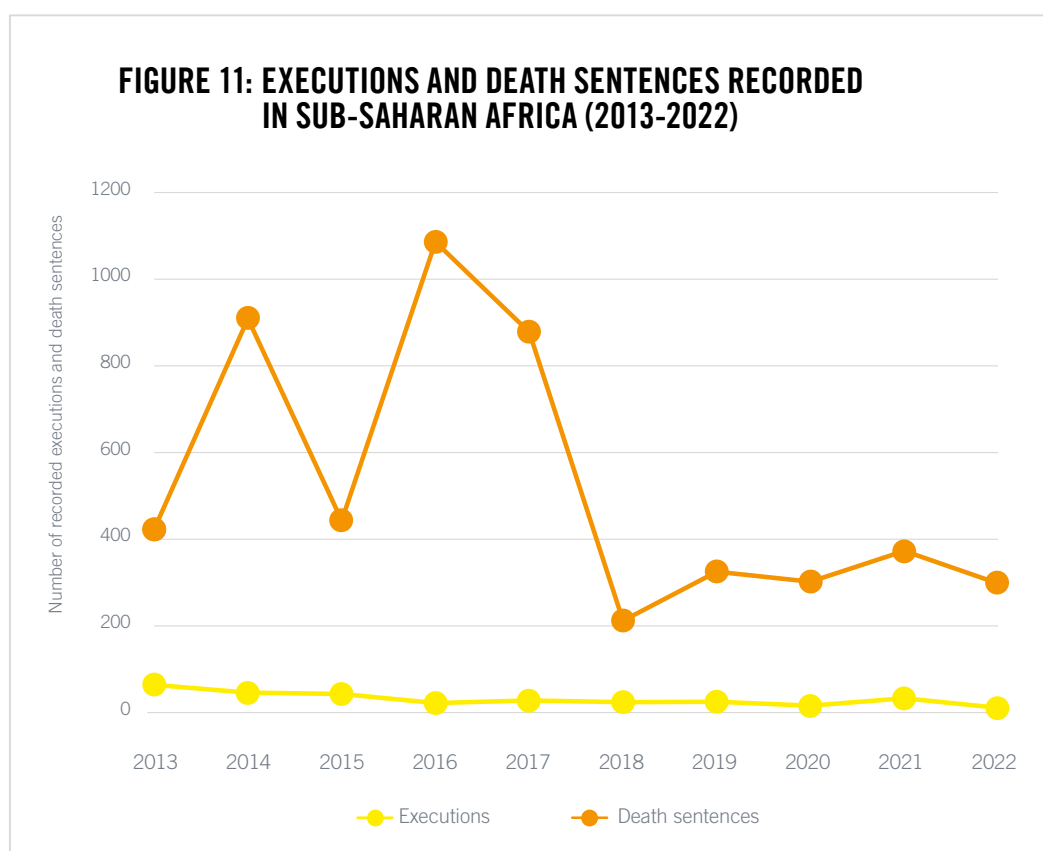
FIGURE 10: RECORDED EXECUTIONS FOR DRUG-RELATED OFFENCES IN IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA (2018-2022)



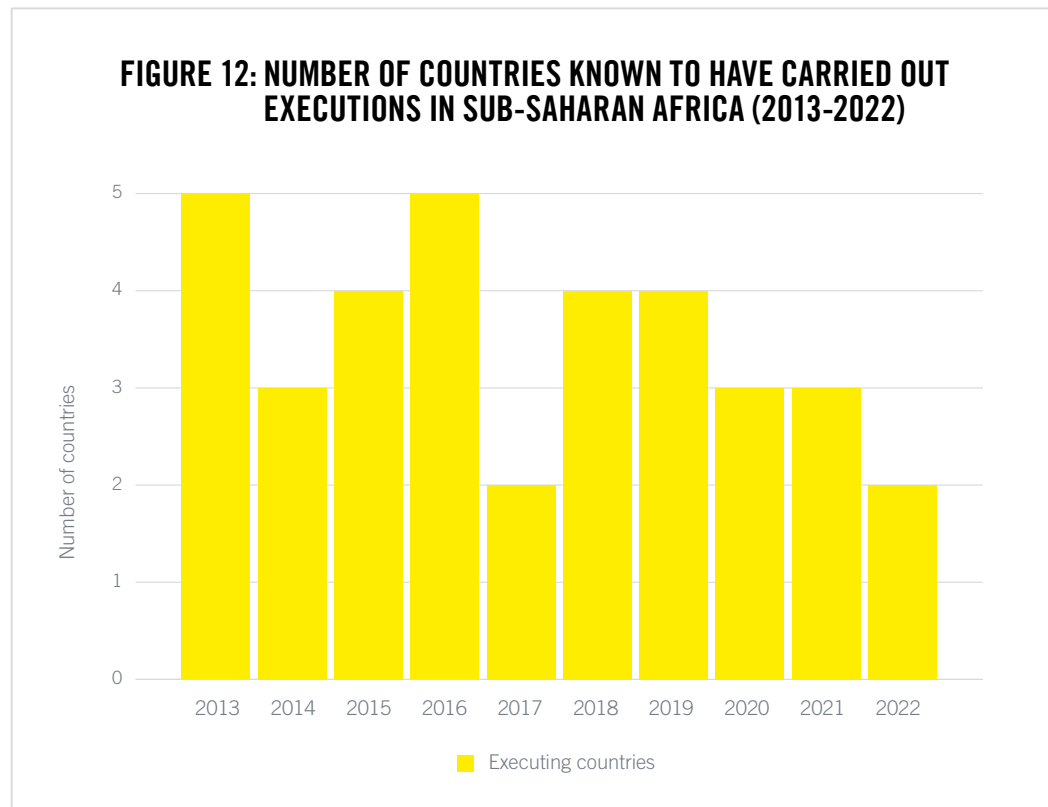
Amnesty International recorded the imposition of death sentences in all countries in the region except Israel, Morocco/Western Sahara and Oman, a total number of 16 (down from 17 in 2021). Of the 827 death sentences recorded in 2022, 538 (65%) were imposed in Egypt.⁷⁷ Of the 538 death sentences, seven were imposed for drug-related offences; 13 for rape and other sexual offences; and 47 on women. Compared to 2021, increases in death sentences were recorded in Algeria (9 to 54), Bahrain (0 to 2), Egypt (356 to 538), Kuwait (5 to 16), Palestine (State of) (21 to 28), Saudi Arabia (8 to 12), Tunisia (3 to 26). In contrast, significant reductions in death sentences were recorded in Iraq (91 to 41), Jordan (11 to 4), Lebanon (12 to 2) and Yemen (298 to 78). Amnesty International was able to confirm that death sentences were imposed in Iran but had insufficient information to provide a credible minimum figure. At least 20 commutations and at least seven pardons were granted in the region.

⁷⁷ Many of the death sentences were imposed following grossly unfair trials, including by emergency courts, marred by credible reports of torture and enforced disappearances.

COUNTRY	2022 RECORDED EXECUTIONS	2022 RECORDED DEATH SENTENCES	PEOPLE KNOWN TO BE UNDER SENTENCE OF DEATH AT THE END OF 2022
Mauritania	0	5+	163+
Niger	0	4+	8+
Nigeria	0	77+	3,167+
Sierra Leone	0	0	0
Somalia	6+	10+	10+
South Sudan	5+	4+	341+
Sudan	0	1+	96+
Tanzania	0	11	491+
Uganda	0	0	135+
Zambia	0	2+	390+
Zimbabwe	0	0	61



On 23 December, the Office of the President of Zambia announced that President Hakainde Hichilema had assented to the Penal Code (Amendment) Bill number 25 of 2022, which abolished the death penalty in the country's Penal Code.⁸⁴ The Penal Code was amended to replace the death penalty with life imprisonment and no longer provides for the death penalty.⁸⁵ However, at the end of the year the death penalty remained in the Defence Act of Zambia for crimes under military laws.⁸⁶



⁸⁴ Office of the President, *Press Release*, "President Hakainde Hichilema assents into law the Penal Code (Amendment) Bill number 25 of 2022, abolishes the imposition of the death penalty and the offence of criminal defamation of the President" (23 December 2022).

⁸⁵ The Penal Code (Amendment) Bill 2022, Number 25 of 2022.

⁸⁶ The Defence Act, Chapter 106 of the Laws of Zambia.

ANNEX I: RECORDED EXECUTIONS AND DEATH SENTENCES IN 2022

This report only covers the judicial use of the death penalty and does not include figures for extrajudicial executions. Amnesty International only reports figures for which it can find reasonable confirmation, although the true figures for some countries are significantly higher. Some states intentionally conceal death penalty proceedings; others do not keep or make available data on the numbers of death sentences and executions.

Where “+” appears after a figure next to the name of a country – for example, Iraq (11+) – it means that Amnesty International confirmed 11 executions or death sentences in Iraq but believes there were more than 11. Where “+” appears after a country name without a figure – for instance, Viet Nam (+) – it means that Amnesty International has corroborated executions or death sentences (more than one) in that country but had insufficient information to provide a credible minimum figure. When calculating global and regional totals, “+” has been counted as two including for China.

RECORDED EXECUTIONS IN 2022

China 1,000s	Kuwait 7	Belarus 1
Iran 576+	Somalia 6+	Japan 1
Saudi Arabia 196	South Sudan 5+	Afghanistan +
Egypt 24	State of Palestine 5	North Korea +
USA 18	Yemen 4+	Syria +
Iraq 11+	Bangladesh 4	Viet Nam +
Singapore 11	Myanmar 4	

ANNEX II: ABOLITIONIST AND RETENTIONIST COUNTRIES

AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2022

Close to three quarters of the countries in the world have now abolished the death penalty in law or practice. As of 31 December 2022, the numbers were as follows:

Abolitionist for all crimes: 112

Abolitionist for ordinary crimes only: 9

Abolitionist in practice: 23

Total abolitionist in law or practice: 144

Retentionist: 55

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

1. 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, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, Central African Republic, Colombia, Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niue, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Togo, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Vatican City, Venezuela.

ANNEX III: RATIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL TREATIES

AS OF 31 DECEMBER 2022

The community of nations has adopted four international treaties providing for the abolition of the death penalty. One is of worldwide scope; three are regional.

Below are short descriptions of the four treaties, a list of states parties to the treaties and lists of countries which have signed but not ratified the treaties, as of 31 December 2022. States may become states parties to international treaties either by acceding to them or by ratifying them. Signature indicates an intention to become a party at a later date through ratification. States are bound under international law to respect the provisions of treaties to which they are a party, and to do nothing to defeat the object and purpose of treaties which they have signed.

SECOND OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, AIMING AT THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

The Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1989, is of worldwide scope. It provides for the total abolition of the death penalty but allows states parties to retain the death penalty in time of war if they make a reservation to that effect at the time of ratifying or acceding to the Protocol. Any state which is a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights can become a party to the Protocol.

States parties: Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, North Macedonia, Norway, Palestine (State of), Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Togo, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (total: 90).

ANNEX IV: VOTING RESULTS OF UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 77/222

ADOPTED ON 15 DECEMBER 2022

The UN General Assembly adopted its eighth resolution on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty. The resolution was adopted by an overwhelming majority of UN member states.

Co-sponsors of UN General Assembly resolution 77/222, adopted on 15 December 2022

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, , Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Togo, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Venezuela (total: 79).

Votes in favour – Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, (total: 125).



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TO ONE PERSON, IT
MATTERS TO US ALL.**

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