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PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS:
STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS
ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Question of the death penalty

Report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to Commission resolution 1998/8

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III. STATUS OF THE DEATH PENALTY WORLDWIDE AS AT 1 DECEMBER 1998

25. The latest quinquennial report and the 1998 yearly supplement include a number of tables showing the status of the death penalty worldwide. This section reproduces some of these tables and updates them to include developments at the end of 1997 and in 1998, as well as making changes where additional information has become available.

Table 1. List of retentionist countries a/

Afghanistan Algeria Antigua and Barbuda Armenia Bahamas	Jamaica Japan Jordan Kazakhstan Kenya
Bahrain Bangladesh Barbados Belarus Belize	Kuwait Kyrgyzstan Lao People's Democratic Republic Latvia Lebanon
Benin Botswana Bulgaria Burkina Faso Burundi	Lesotho Liberia Libyan Arab Jamahiriya Lithuania Malawi
Cameroon Chad China Comoros Cuba	Malaysia Mauritania Mongolia Morocco Myanmar
Democratic People's Republic of Korea Democratic Republic of the Congo Dominica Egypt Equatorial Guinea	Nigeria Oman Pakistan Qatar Republic of Korea
Eritrea Ethiopia Gabon Ghana Guatemala	Russian Federation Rwanda Saint Kitts and Nevis Saint Lucia Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Guyana India Indonesia Iran (Islamic Republic of) Iraq	Saudi Arabia Sierra Leone Somalia Sudan Swaziland
Syrian Arab Republic Tajikistan Thailand Trinidad and Tobago Tunisia	United States of America Uzbekistan Viet Nam Yemen Yugoslavia
Turkmenistan Uganda Ukraine United Arab Emirates United Republic of Tanzania	Zambia Zimbabwe
Total: 87 countries	

a/ The countries or territories listed retain the death penalty for ordinary crimes, and in most cases are known to have carried out executions during the past 10 years.

Table 2. List of countries that are totally abolitionist

<u>Country or territory</u>	<u>Date of abolition</u>	<u>Date of abolition for ordinary crimes</u>	<u>Date of last known execution</u>
Andorra	1990	..	1943
Angola	1992	..	..
Australia	1985	1984	1967
Austria	1968	1950	1950
Azerbaijan	1998	..	..
Belgium	1996	..	1950
Bolivia	..	..	1974
Cambodia	1989	..	..
Cape Verde	1981	..	1835
Colombia	1910	..	1909
Costa Rica	1877	..	..
Croatia	1990	..	..
Czech Republic	1990	..	1989
Denmark	1978	1930	1950
Dominican Republic	1966	..	..
Ecuador	1906	..	..
Estonia	1998	..	..
Finland	1972	1949	1946
France	1981	..	1977
Georgia	1997	..	1995
Germany	1949/1987 a/	..	1949
Greece	1997	..	..
GuineaBissau	1993	..	1986
Haiti	1987	..	1972
Holy See	1969	..	..
Honduras	1956	..	1940
Hungary	1990	..	1988
Iceland	1928	..	1830
Ireland	1990	..	1954
Italy	1994	1947	1947
Kiribati	..	..	*
Liechtenstein	1987	..	1785
Luxembourg	1979	..	1949
Marshall Islands	..	..	*
Mauritius	1995	..	1987
Micronesia (Federated States of)	..	..	*
Monaco	1962	..	1847
Mozambique	1990	..	1986
Namibia	1990	..	1988
Nepal	1998	..	..

Netherlands	1983	1870	1952
New Zealand	1989	1961	1957
Nicaragua	1979	..	1930
Norway	1979	1905	1948
Palau	..	..	..
Panama	..	..	1903
Paraguay	1992	..	1917
Poland	1997	..	1988
Portugal	1976	1867	1847
Republic of Moldova	1995	..	..
Romania	1990	..	1989
San Marino	1865	1848	1468
Sao Tome and Principe	1990	..	*
Slovakia	..	..	..
Slovenia	1990	..	1989
	1991	..	1959
Solomon Islands	..	1966	*
South Africa	1995	..	1989
Spain	1995	1978	1975
Sweden	1973	1921	1910
Switzerland	1992	1937	1945
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1991	..	1988
Tuvalu	..	..	*
Uruguay	1907	..	..
Vanuatu	..	..	*
Venezuela	1863	..	..
Total: 65 countries			

Two dots (..) indicate that data are not available.

An asterisk (*) indicates that there have been no executions since the country gained its independence.

a/ The death penalty was abolished in the Federal Republic of Germany in 1949 and in the German Democratic Republic in 1987. The date of the last execution in the German Democratic Republic is not known.

Table 3. List of countries that are abolitionist for ordinary crimes only<

Country	Date of abolition for ordinary crimes	Date of last execution
Argentina	1984	..
Bolivia	1991	..
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1997	..
Brazil	1979	1855
Canada	1976	1962

Cyprus	1983	1962
El Salvador	1983	1973
Fiji	1979	1964
Israel	1954	1962
Malta	1971	1943

Table 4. List of countries that can be considered abolitionist de facto a/

<u>Country</u>	<u>Date of last known execution</u>
Albania	..
Bermuda	1977
Bhutan	1964
Brunei Darussalam	1957
Central African Republic	1981
Chile	1985
Congo	1982
Côte d'Ivoire	..
Djibouti	*
Gambia	..
Grenada	1978
Guinea	1983
Madagascar	1958
Maldives	1952
Mali	1980
Nauru	*
Niger	1976
Papua New Guinea	1950
Philippines	1976
Samoa	*
Senegal	1967
Sri Lanka	1976
Suriname	1984
Togo	..
Tonga	1982
Turkey	1984
Total: 26 countries	

Two dots (..) indicate that data are not available.

An asterisk (*) indicates that there have been no executions since the country gained its independence.

a/ Countries that retain the death penalty for ordinary crimes but have not executed anyone during the last 10 years or more. It should be pointed out that in some of these countries death sentences continue to be imposed, and not all of the countries listed have a policy of regularly commuting death sentences.

