1. **Global death penalty figures**

Amnesty International recorded **657 executions** in **20 countries** in 2019, a decrease of **5%**compared to 2018 (at least **690**). This is the lowest number of executions that Amnesty International has recorded in at least a decade.

Most executions took place in **China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Egypt**– in that order.

**China remained the world’s leading executioner** – but the true extent of the use of the death penalty in China is unknown as this data is classified as a state secret; the global figure of at least **657**excludes the thousands of executions believed to have been carried out in China.

Excluding China, **86%** of all reported executions took place in just four countries – **Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Egypt**.

**Bangladesh and Bahrain** resumed executions last year, after a hiatus in 2018. Amnesty International did not report any executions in **Afghanistan, Taiwan and Thailand**, despite having done so in 2018.

Executions in **Iran** fell slightly from at least **253**in 2018 to at least **251** in 2019. Executions in **Iraq** almost doubled from at least **52**in 2018 to at least **100** in 2019, while **Saudi Arabia** executed a record number of people from **149** in 2018 to **184 in 2019**.

**Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Kazakhstan, Kenya and Zimbabwe** either took positive steps or made pronouncements in 2019 which may lead to the abolition of the death penalty.

**Barbados** also removed the mandatory death penalty from its Constitution. In the **United States**, the Governor of California established an official moratorium on executions in the US state with biggest death row population, and New Hampshire became the 21st US state to abolish the death penalty for all crimes.

**Gambia, Kazakhstan**, **Malaysia,** the **Russian Federation** and **Tajikistan** continued to observe official moratoriums on executions.

At the end of 2019, **106**countries (a majority of the world’s states) had abolished the death penalty in law for all crimes, and **142** countries (more than two-thirds) had abolished the death penalty in law or practice.

Amnesty International recorded commutations or pardons of death sentences in **24 countries**: Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco/Western Sahara, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Singapore, Sudan, Thailand, UAE, USA, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

**At least 11**exonerations of prisoners under sentence of death were recorded in two countries: **USA and Zambia.**

Amnesty International recorded at least **2,307** death sentences in **56** countries compared to the total of **2,531** reported in **54** countries in **2018**. However, Amnesty did not receive information on official figures for death sentences imposed in **Malaysia, Nigeria** and **Sri Lanka**, countries that reported high official numbers of death sentences in previous years.

At least **26,604 people** were known to be under sentence of death globally at the end of 2019.

The following methods of execution were used across the world in 2019: **beheading, electrocution, hanging, lethal injection and shooting**.

At least 13 **public executions were recorded** in Iran. At least six people – four in Iran, one in Saudi Arabia and one in South Sudan – were executed for crimes that occurred when they were **below 18 years of age.** People with **mental or intellectual disabilities** were under sentence of death in several countries, including Japan, Maldives, Pakistan and USA.

Death sentences were known to have been imposed after proceedings that did not meet international fair trial standards in countries including **Bahrain, Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Malaysia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Viet Nam** and **Yemen.**

1. Regional death penalty analysis
2. Americas

For the 11th consecutive year, the **USA** remained the only country to carry out executions in the region. **Trinidad and Tobago** was the only country to retain the mandatory death penalty for murder.

The number of executions **(from 25 to** **22**) and death sentences **(from 45 to** **35**) recorded in the US decreased compared to 2018.

More than 40% of all recorded executions were carried out in **Texas**, which remained the leading executing state in the country (from **13** to **nine**). **Missouri** carried out one execution in 2019 after none in the previous year. Conversely, **Nebraska** and **Ohio** did not put anyone to death in 2019 after carrying out executions in 2018 (one in each state).

1. Outside the USA, the progress towards ending the use of the death penalty continued. **Barbados** removed the mandatory death penalty from its constitution while **Antigua and Barbuda**, **Bahamas, Belize, Cuba, Dominica, Guatemala, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis** and **Saint Lucia** did not have anyone on death row and no reports of new death sentences.
2. Asia-Pacific

For the first time in almost a decade, the Asia-Pacific region saw a decrease in the number of executing countries, with seven countries carrying out executions during the year.

Without a figure for **Viet Nam**, the number of recorded executions **(29)** showed a slight decrease due to drops in **Japan (from 15 to three)** and **Singapore (from 13 to four)**. This regional total, as in previous years, does not include the thousands of executions that were believed to have been carried out in **China** and is affected by ongoing secrecy in this country as well as in **North Korea and Viet Nam**.

Although **Bangladesh** resumed executions **(two)**, hiatuses were reported in **Afghanistan,** **Taiwan** and **Thailand**, which all executed people in 2018. **Malaysia** continued to observe its official moratorium on executions established in July 2018.

Recorded executions in **Pakistan** in 2019 represented the same total as in the previous year with at least **14** men hanged in the country. Death sentences in the country increased significantly to at least 632, after additional courts became operational to deal with a backlog of cases.

The number of executions in **Japan** was down from **15** in 2018, when the country reported its highest yearly figure since 2008, to **three in 2019**. **Two** Japanese men were executed on 2 August and a Chinese national was executed on 26 December. All men had been convicted of murder.

**Singapore** reported **4 executions in 2019,** from a record-high of **13** in 2018.

The **Philippines** attempted to reintroduce the death penalty for “heinous crimes related to illegal drugs and plunder”.

At least **1,227** new death sentences across **17 countries** were known to have been imposed, a **12%** increase compared to 2018.

1. Europe and Central Asia

At least **two executions** were recorded in **Belarus** in 2019, compared to at least **four in 2018**. The last time another country in the region carried out executions was in 2005.

**Kazakhstan**, the **Russian Federation** and **Tajikistan** continued to observe official moratoriums on executions. Kazakhstan also announced measures to start the process of joining the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which commits states to abolishing the death penalty.

1. **Middle East and North Africa**

The Middle East and North Africa region reported a **16%** increase in the number of executions, from **501**in 2018 to **579 in 2019**, bucking the trend that has seen a decline in the region’s recorded use of the death penalty since 2015.

This was mainly due to a sharp increase in the use of the death penalty in Iraq and Saudi Arabia. **Iraq** almost doubled the number of executions from at least **52** in 2018 to at least **100** in 2019, while **Saudi Arabia** executed a record number of people – **184** -- in 2019 compared to **149** people in 2018. Together with **Iran,** they accounted for **92%** of the total number of recorded executions in the region.

**Seven**countries – **Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yemen** – were known to have carried out executions last year.

There were **707 recorded death sentences** in 2019, a **40% drop** compared to 2018, when **1,170** death sentences were recorded in the region.

**Egypt** again imposed the most confirmed death sentences in the region, but the 2019 number (at least **435)** was dramatically lower from at least **717** people sentenced to death in 2018. The number of death sentences the **Iraqi** authorities imposed during the course of the year was also significantly lower -- at least **87** in 2019 compared to at least **271** in 2018.

1. Sub-Saharan Africa

Four countries – **Botswana, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan** – carried out 25 executions in 2019. Overall recorded executions in the region increased by one compared to 2018.

For a second year in a row, **South Sudan** saw an alarming increase in executions, putting to death **at least 11 people in 2019**; the highest recorded number in any year since the country’s independence in 2011. Of the people executed, three were from the same family, one was a child at the time of the crime and was about 17 when he was sentenced to death.

Recorded death sentences rose by 53% from at least **212**in 2018 to **325** in 2019.

The number of countries that imposed death sentences increased to **18**from **17** recorded in 2018.