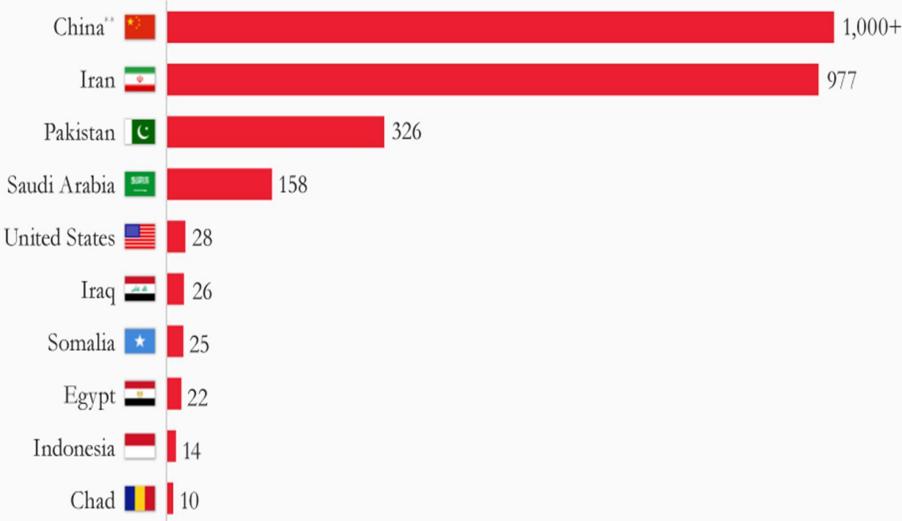


The Death Penalty As A Moral Issue

By: Brett Guillaume

The Death Penalty?

Top 10 countries for executions in 2015



* Excluding China & North Korea

** Official data unavailable. Amnesty International estimates there have been thousands of executions in China.

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/death-penalty-executions-which-countries-have-killed-most-prisoners-a7354301.html>



@StatistaCharts Source: Amnesty International



INDEPENDENT statista

- The death penalty, formerly known as capital punishment, is where a criminal is put to death for their actions.
 - It assumes that human life is sacred, and that the killers who take the lives of their victims forfeit the rights to their own.
- Many countries around the world have outright abolished the death penalty

History:

- In 1972, the U.S Supreme Court declared that the death penalty was cruel and unusual punishment
- Four years later
 - A decision by the high court allowed capital punishment to resume
 - Only by states that wanted it
- Lethal injection is the most used form of execution

In My Paper:

- I wrote in favor of the death penalty
- Individuals who don't favor the death penalty do so because of religious beliefs or they feel like it is inhumane

Counter:

- I am religious
 - It does not personally stop me from believing in the death penalty
- Although I cannot speak on one's religious beliefs, lethal injections, if done right, causes no harm to the subject
- The Constitution
 - Allows capital punishment
 - Why not use it to deter crime?

Deterrence:

- The death penalty reduces murder
 - “In Texas' largest county, Harris County, the murder rate dropped 73 percent between 1981, the year before Texas resumed executions, 2000” (Pearce 1).
- Life sentences always leave open the possibility of a killer getting a chance to kill again. The death penalty never does

Kenneth Allen McDuff:



<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/6614480/kenneth-allen-mcduff>

- Was first sentenced to death in 1968 for three murders he had committed two years prior.
- Ended up serving life in prison due to the Supreme Court's ruling against death penalty in 1972
- He was paroled in 1989
- Two years after, he murdered a female, and was believed to have killed 4 other females after that.
- If McDuff was sentenced to death, like he should have been, we could have saved 5 innocent people.

Call To Action:

- I say capital punishment is necessary to ensure that those who commit first-degree murder receive punishment appropriate to their actions
- The only capital punishment that should be allowed is lethal injections - as it is the most humane
- Society should loosen up a little

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