



General Assembly: Legality of the Death Penalty

Hello delegates! My name is Samar Sheikh, and I am going to be your head chair at MVHSMUN 2017 conference. This is my fourth year of MUN and it has been so much fun. Also in school I am involved in multiple clubs such as IDC, CWC, and bridges club. I am also on Track and Field team and have been for the past three years. In my free time I dance, teach dance classes up in LA, and love paint and draw. I'm very excited to meet all of you this weekend , and I'm looking forward to an amazing committee. If you have any questions, please email me at: mvhsmunlegal@gmail.com

I. Background of the Death Penalty

The first standardized death penalty laws date as far back as the Eighteenth Century B.C. in the Code of King Hammurabi of Babylon, which organized the death penalty for 25 different crimes. The death penalty was also part of the Fourteenth Century BC Hittite Code, the Seventh Century B.C.'s Draconian Code of Athens, which made death the only punishment for all crimes, and the Fifth Century BC Roman Law of the Twelve Tablets. As of 2017, in Europe, the death penalty for peacetime crimes has been abolished in all countries except Belarus, while the death penalty for wartime crimes has been abolished in all countries except Belarus and Kazakhstan. Now most countries have abolished the death penalty but some states such as the United States of America, North Korea, Iraq, and Iran have not yet gotten rid of it, and still use it to this day.

II. United Nations Involvements

On December 18, the United Nations voted to adopt a resolution summoning for a global suspension on the death penalty, with an eye toward termination. A record high 117 countries voted in favor of the resolution. The United States was one of just 38 nations that opposed it, and 34 nations abstained. Two years ago, a similar resolution called a global stop to the death penalty passed with 111 "yes" votes. This year's resolution also urged those countries that still carry out executions not to execute juveniles, pregnant women, or people with intellectual disabilities. Though the United States continues to vote against a moratorium resolution, use of capital punishment has decreased significantly within the country, as it has abroad. In 2014, the U.S. had



its lowest number of executions in 20 years, and the lowest number of death sentences in 40 years. When the UN was founded in 1945, only 8 of the 51 member nations had abolished the death penalty. Today, 95 of the 193 member nations have officially abolished the death penalty, and an additional 42 have abolished it in practice. In line with General Assembly resolutions calling for a phasing out of capital punishment, the UN Human Rights Office supports Member States, civil society and other stakeholders campaigning for a moratorium on the death penalty

III. Possible Solutions

Delegates, in order to create a committee that can truly discuss ways to eliminate the death penalty it is crucial to think critically and analyze all aspects of the situation. This will create comprehensive solutions. For example a possible solution could be rehabilitation. After certain criminals have reached a certain point in their life sentence, they should be subject to rehab. If rehabilitation is unsuccessful, then the criminal in question can be forced to stay indoors under constant surveillance. For each crime their time in rehab differs, also depending on the crime community work will be subjected as well

IV. Questions

1. How should criminals be punished if not with the death penalty?
2. What has your nation done to repeal or keep the Death Penalty?
3. What is the highest criminal activity that has happened, and how can it be stopped?
4. How loosely is the Death Penalty treated in your country?



VI. Works cited

United Nations Human Right-Death Penalty

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/DeathPenalty/Pages/DPIndex.aspx>

Historical timeline-Death penalty

<https://deathpenalty.procon.org/view.timeline.php?timelineID=000025>

DPIC-Death Penalty Information Center

<https://deathpenaltyinfo.org>

Death Penalty-Amnesty International

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/death-penalty/>