



**Response to the Call for Inputs for the Secretary-General's report on the question of the death penalty:
General developments since 1 July 2024
for the
63rd Session of the Human Rights Council
September 2026**

Submitted by The Advocates for Human Rights
a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1996
The European Saudi Organization for Human Rights
The Maldivian Democracy Network
The Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty
Avocats Sans Frontières France
Abolition Death Penalty of Iraq
Center for Prisoners' Rights Japan
The Coalition of Somali Human Rights Defenders
Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty
Hope Behind Bars Africa
Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network
Center for Legal Support & Inmates' Rehabilitation
and
The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

Submitted 13 March 2026

The Advocates for Human Rights (The Advocates) is a volunteer-based non-governmental organization committed to the impartial promotion and protection of international human rights standards and the rule of law since its founding in 1983. The Advocates conducts a range of programs to promote human rights in the United States and around the world, including monitoring and fact finding, direct legal representation, education and training, and publication. The Advocates is the primary provider of legal services to low-income asylum seekers in the Upper Midwest region of the United States. The Advocates is committed to ensuring human rights protection for women around the world. The Advocates has published more than 25 reports on violence against women as a human rights issue, provided consultation and commentary of draft laws on domestic violence, and trained lawyers, police, prosecutors, judges, and other law enforcement personnel to effectively implement new and existing laws on domestic violence. In 1991, The Advocates adopted a formal commitment to oppose the death penalty worldwide and organized a death penalty project to provide pro bono assistance on post-conviction appeals, as well as education and advocacy to end capital punishment. The Advocates currently holds a seat

on the Steering Committee of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty.

The European Saudi Organization for Human Rights (ESOHR) is a nonprofit organization establishment, established by a group of activists aiming to strengthen the commitment of human rights principles in Saudi Arabia. ESOHR vision is to expand the area of human rights in all fields in full measure, by working to urge the concerned as legislative or executive to activate it, raise awareness and empower citizens of their rights through education.

The Maldivian Democracy Network (MDN) is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation advocating for human rights and democracy in the Maldives. MDN was formed in 2004, allowed to register in the Maldives in 2006, and arbitrarily shut down following blasphemy allegations by the Government of Maldives in 2019. MDN currently works in exile.

The Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty (TAEDP) is the first coalition in Taiwan dedicated to abolishing the death penalty and promoting reform of the criminal justice system. Established in 2003, it brings together abolitionist groups, NGOs, and research institutes. TAEDP works on individual capital cases, monitors trial procedures to safeguard fair trial rights, and campaigns to prevent wrongful executions. The organization also provides training and seminars for criminal defense lawyers. Beyond capital punishment, TAEDP advocates for victims' rights and stronger support systems for those affected by serious crimes. It engages the public through forums, seminars, and educational programs developed in collaboration with teachers.

Avocats Sans Frontières France (Lawyers Without Borders France) is an international non-governmental organization dedicated to defending human rights and promoting access to justice for the most vulnerable populations. Since 2011, ASF France has been working for the abolition of the death penalty in Nigeria. Through legal aid, capacity building, and advocacy, ASF France works to strengthen the rule of law and reform in the use of the capital punishment in the country.

Abolition Death Penalty of Iraq organization (OADPI) is an alliance of more than 160 NGOs, bar associations, local authorities and unions and was created in Rome on 13 May 2002. It was created as a result of the commitment made by the signatories of the Final Declaration of the 1st World Congress Against the Death Penalty organized by the French NGO Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM) in Strasbourg in June 2001. The aim of the World Coalition is to strengthen the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty. Its objective is to obtain the universal abolition of the death penalty. To achieve its goal, the World Coalition advocates for a definitive end to death sentences and executions in those countries where the death penalty is in force. In some countries, it is seeking to obtain a reduction in the use of capital punishment as a first step towards abolition.

The **Center for Prisoners' Rights Japan (CPR)** was established in March 1995 as the first Japanese NGO specializing in prison reform. CPR's goal is to reform Japanese prison conditions in accordance with international human rights standards and to abolish the death penalty. CPR is a member organization of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

The **Coalition of Somali Human Rights Defenders (CSHRD)** is a civil society network dedicated to promoting and protecting human rights defenders and vulnerable communities in Somalia. Its work aligns with the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and

contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to gender equality, justice, peace, and inclusive societies. Through advocacy, documentation, protection initiatives, and partnerships, CSHRD strengthens civic space and supports accountability and human rights protection in Somalia.

Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty works for restorative justice in the form of effective alternatives to the death penalty. FADP works to build and mobilize public and political support for abolition using a coordinated, strategic, and empowerment-oriented approach incorporating a broad network of individual Floridians, murder victims' family members and other survivors of violent crime, law enforcement professionals, families of the incarcerated, and death row exonerees.

Hope Behind Bars Africa (HBBA) is a women-led, human rights-focused social enterprise and non-governmental organisation based in Nigeria, operating in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 2021. Founded in 2018, HBBA works to close the justice gap for marginalised populations, with a particular focus on people from low socio-economic backgrounds who are at risk of or currently facing incarceration. HBBA conducts research, advocacy, and legal support, and develops evidence-based interventions to improve access to justice. HBBA provides direct representation to women on death row, ensuring that they have access to fair trials, legal counsel, and support during appeals and clemency processes. The organisation also offers psycho-social support, rehabilitation programs, and reintegration assistance to women in conflict with the law, addressing their specific needs and promoting holistic reformation.

Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network (ADPAN) is the peak regional body for organisations committed to the abolition of the death penalty across Asia-Pacific, with members from 20 countries within the region. As such, ADPAN maintains that the death penalty violates the right to life, that it is the ultimate form of cruel, inhuman, and degrading punishment and that the death penalty should be entirely abolished internationally.

The Center for Legal Support and Inmates' Rehabilitation (CELSIR) is a social enterprise organization dedicated to advancing access to justice for indigent persons and victims of human rights violations. Through legal aid, paralegal training, prison-based legal empowerment programs, and advocacy on sentencing reform and the death penalty, CELSIR works to strengthen fair trial rights, promote humane justice systems, and support the rehabilitation and reintegration of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated persons.

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty is a membership-based global network committed to strengthening the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty. Established in 2002, its ultimate objective is to obtain the universal abolition of the death penalty. To achieve its goal, the World Coalition advocates for a definitive end to death sentences and executions in those countries where the death penalty is in force. In some countries, it is seeking to obtain a reduction in the use of capital punishment as a first step towards abolition.

1. This report responds to the Secretary-General's call for inputs, focusing on general developments since July 2024, incorporating responses to a March 2026 survey of World Coalition Against the Death Penalty members.
2. In August 2025, the Supreme Court of India held that in capital cases a sentencing hearing is a procedural safeguard and part of the right to a fair trial.¹
3. LBH Masyarakat (LBHM) reports that in 2026, revisions to Indonesia's Criminal Code took effect, establishing the death penalty as an alternative punishment and giving people on death row the opportunity to seek commutation after 10 years. Authorities have not yet issued retroactive regulations. The government is also drafting a regulation on execution procedures. LBHM advocates for postponing executions for older persons and extending the execution notification period beyond 72 hours. Between 2024 and 2025, authorities repatriated 11 foreign nationals, including 4 on death row. But the process for determining repatriation eligibility is opaque and seems to favor people from the Global North.²
4. Abolition Death Penalty of Iraq (OADPI) reports that since July 2024, the Iraqi government issued a general amnesty decree, releasing 11,000 people from prison, excluding people on death row. OADPI expects authorities will retry people sentenced to death based on information from secret informants or torture-tainted confessions. Authorities continue to sentence large numbers of alleged drug traffickers to death—up to 300 people in the last 2.5 years.
5. Center for Prisoners' Rights Japan (CPR) reports that in September 2024, UN experts issued an allegation letter alleging Japan was violating the rights of women charged with capital crimes.³
6. Kenya continues to observe a de facto moratorium on executions and the President regularly commutes death sentences. Center for Legal Support and Inmates' Rehabilitation (CELSIR) reports that in 2025, a high court issued a significant ruling that the mandatory death penalty for robbery violates Kenya's Constitution,⁴ emphasizing that judges must consider mitigation before imposing punishment. Courts continue to grapple with a similar 2017 decision striking down the mandatory death penalty for murder. Civil society continues to advocate for abolition of and limitations to the death penalty. Parliamentarians have proposed several abolition bills but they remain at early stages of consideration.
7. A Coalition member in Liberia reports that the country's de facto moratorium on executions continues, but approximately 16 people remain on death row. Lawmakers continue to discuss

¹ *Vasanta Sampat Dupare v. Union of India*, (2025) SCC Online SC 1823; Square Circle Clinic and NALSAR, *Death Penalty in India Annual Statistics Report 2025 & 10 Years of Death Penalty Data (2016-2025)*, at 55, https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JFjVA_Zg8IFSYMZ9Ey7B5lxV2N7w8dII/view.

² Annual Report LBHM 2025: Colliding, Colliding, Yet Never Forming: Interests Eroding Reformasi, Jan. 2026, at 19-22, <https://lbhmasyarakat.org/files/Colliding,%20Colliding,%20Yet%20Never%20Forming%20-%202025%20Annual%20Report%20of%20LBHM.pdf>.

³ Mandates of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitration executions et al., Allegation Letter, 24 Sept. 2024, <https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownloadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=29384>.

⁴ See *Mukenya v. Republic*, [2025] KEHC 17161 (KLR), Nov. 19, 2025, <https://new.kenyalaw.org/akn/ke/judgment/kehc/2025/17161/eng%402025-11-19/source>.

an abolition bill. Death penalty reform is tied to the transitional justice agenda, including the proposed War and Economic Crimes Court.

8. The Maldivian Democracy Network (MDN) reports that authorities in December 2024 declared they were resuming executions, had constructed execution facilities, and were training executioners. On 6 December 2025, the Maldives adopted amendments to the Drug Act, introducing the death penalty for drug offenses.
9. Avocats Sans Frontières France in Nigeria reports that 2026 marks Nigeria’s 10th year without executions, but with over 3,600 people on death row, Nigeria has one of the world’s largest death row populations.⁵ In 2025, a bill before the Federal parliament to abolish the death penalty passed a second reading,⁶ but the House of Representatives subsequently rescinded it.⁷ In response to civil society and international pressure, the Senate dropped a death penalty provision from proposed drug law amendments.⁸ In March 2025, the Supreme Court upheld a death sentence, narrowing the plea of self-defense.⁹ In October 2025, Nigeria’s executive used its Prerogative of Mercy to commute 7 death sentences, including a woman accused of killing her husband. State governors also continue to commute death sentences.
10. Hope Behind Bars Africa (HBBA) adds that in 2025, Nigeria’s National Human Rights Commission publicly warned of a “gradual return” to executions, which could undermine human rights protections,¹⁰ and the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice issued a writ compelling Nigeria to comply with a judgment finding its blasphemy laws—including capital penalties—violate the African Charter.¹¹ In late 2025, over broad objections from the Nigerian Bar Association and others,¹² the Senate advanced a bill to expand the definition of terrorism and authorize the death penalty for offenders.¹³
11. The Coalition of Somali Human Rights Defenders (CSHRD) reports that in August 2024, Somalia’s Puntland authorities executed 10 people accused of Al-Shabaab affiliation, amid fair trial concerns. Authorities sometimes hold people accused of capital crimes in secret prisons,

⁵ Abdulqudus Ogundapo, *3,688 inmates on death row in Nigeria – NcoS CG*, Premium Times, Mar. 13, 2025, <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/780460-3688-inmates-on-death-row-in-nigeria-ncos-cg.html>.

⁶ *Bill to Abolish Death Penalty Passes Second Reading in House of Representatives*, Arise News, Mar. 26, 2025, <https://www.arise.tv/bill-to-abolish-death-penalty-passes-second-reading-in-house-of-representatives/>.

⁷ Ifreke Inyang, *Reps rescind decision on bill to abolish death penalty*, Daily Post, Mar. 27, 2025, <https://dailypost.ng/2025/03/27/reps-rescind-decision-on-bill-to-abolish-death-penalty/>.

⁸ *See Death penalty for drugs too harsh*, Punch, May 24, 2024, <https://punchng.com/death-penalty-for-drugs-too-harsh/>.

⁹ *See Justice Denied? Supreme Court’s Judgement in Sunday Jackson’s Self-Defence Case (Part 1)*, This Day, May 6, 2025, <https://www.thisdaylive.com/2025/05/06/justice-denied-supreme-courts-judgement-in-sunday-jacksons-self-defence-case-part-1/>.

¹⁰ Ameh Ochojila, *NHRC decries gradual return of death penalty*, The Guardian, Mar. 6, 2025, <https://guardian.ng/news/nhrc-decries-gradual-return-of-death-penalty>.

¹¹ Ezinwanne Onwuka, *ECOWAS Court Serves Writ on Nigeria to End Death Penalty Blasphemy Laws*, West African Pilot News, Nov. 21, 2025, <https://www.westafricanpilotnews.com/2025/11/21/ecowas-court-serves-writ-on-nigeria-to-end-death-penalty-blasphemy-laws/>.

¹² *Kidnapping: NBA raises concerns over bill seeking death penalty, proffers ways forward*, Blueprint, Dec. 21, 2025, <https://blueprint.ng/kidnapping-nba-raises-concerns-over-bill-seeking-death-penalty-proffers-ways-forward/>.

¹³ Mercy Edewede, *Senate Pushes Death Penalty for Kidnapping in Terrorism Law Amendments*, Nigeria Info, Dec. 4, 2025, <https://www.nigeriainfo.fm/news/homepagelagos/senate-pushes-death-penalty-for-kidnapping-in-terrorism-law-amendments>.

denying access to independent lawyers. Judges sometimes do not allow the defense sufficient preparation time.

12. A World Coalition member reports that the Sri Lankan parliament has held discussions concerning the rights of persons facing the death penalty.
13. A World Coalition member in Tanzania reports that authorities have convened a stakeholders consultation to inform a Presidential Commission established in 2023 regarding criminal justice.
14. The Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty (TAEDP) reports that in September 2024, Taiwan's Constitutional Court issued a judgement confirming that people on death row may seek retrial or resentencing through an extraordinary appeal. Nonetheless, authorities do not proactively uphold these remedial rights. Authorities also amended Regulations for Executing the Death Penalty to reduce the threshold for carrying out executions. In 2025, TAEDP published findings from interviews with 77 people convicted of homicide, documenting that authorities fail to address the needs arising from the long-term detention of people on death row, particularly regarding diet, exercise, sleep, and medical care.¹⁴ In February 2026, a person on death row died due to chronic illness. Since 2024, TAEDP has assisted six people on death row who lost all their teeth due to detention conditions and cannot afford dentures. Detention conditions also give rise to skin disease and joint pain. Prolonged isolation on death row, along with insufficient mental health care, exacerbates preexisting mental health conditions and can generate psychiatric disorders. Lawmakers are considering expanding the scope of the death penalty to include child abuse resulting in death, human trafficking, and drunk driving resulting in death.
15. Türkiye-based SOHRAM-CASRA reports that death penalty prevention activities have become more effective.
16. The Death Penalty Information Center (DPIC) reports that in the USA, “[e]xecutions rose from 25 in 2024 to 47 in 2025.”¹⁵ Most people executed had either “serious mental illness (27); low IQ, brain damage, or evidence of intellectual disability (25); and/or significant childhood trauma, neglect, or abuse (28).”¹⁶ The number of new death sentenced declined to 23, and public support for the death penalty is at a 50-year low.¹⁷ In 2025, states adopted new laws expanding the scope of the death penalty to include non-homicide crimes, increasing secrecy, modifying methods of execution, and limiting opportunities to challenge sentences.¹⁸ “Botched” executions via lethal injection, nitrogen gas, and firing squad persist.¹⁹ The Supreme Court has agreed to hear a case about racial discrimination in jury selection.²⁰ On 12 December 2025, Ohio exonerated Elwood Jones, the country's 202nd death row exoneree since 1976.²¹

¹⁴ Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty, *Interview Project: The Experience of Prisoners Serving Death and Life Sentences*, 2025, <https://www.taedp.org.tw/topic/11471>.

¹⁵ Death Penalty Information Center, *The Death Penalty in 2025*, Dec. 15, 2025, at 2, https://files.deathpenaltyinfo.org/documents/YER2025_FINAL2.pdf.

¹⁶ *Id.* at 10.

¹⁷ *Id.* at 2.

¹⁸ *Id.* at 2, 31-41.

¹⁹ *Id.* at 2, 12, 28-29.

²⁰ *Id.* at 28.

²¹ *Id.* at 44.

On 30 April 2026, Texas plans to execute James Broadnax, who is arguing before the Supreme Court that his nearly all-white jury improperly considered rap lyrics he wrote as a teenager.²²

17. Prisoners' Future Foundation (PFF) reports that in March 2025, the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR entered into force in Zambia. Nonetheless, 10 people remain on death row pending judicial completion of their cases.

Data/transparency

18. LBHM reports that in Indonesia the government website with information on the number of people in prison, including people sentenced to death, is often inaccessible.²³ The site disaggregates data by gender but not nationality or offense.
19. ADPI reports that Iraqi authorities do not publish accurate information about executions and civil society cannot access reliable information.
20. CELSIR reports that authorities in Kenya do not regularly or comprehensively publish official figures on death sentences, commutations, appeals, or demographic data.
21. A Coalition member in Liberia reports that authorities release only limited official statistics on the death penalty.
22. MDN reports that the Maldives' *qisas* system is opaque and authorities do not provide public information about how the death penalty applies at the intersection of Islamic Sahri'ah and Common Law. In some cases authorities provide victims' families with misinformation, pressuring them to seek the death penalty under the mistaken assumption that otherwise perpetrators will go free.
23. HBBA reports that Nigeria does not routinely publish comprehensive official data on death sentences or executions, instead issuing occasional press releases.²⁴
24. CSHRD reports that official death penalty records in Somalia are incomplete and opaque. Civil society gathers information through media coverage and charge sheets. Existing official records significantly undercount actual executions and death sentences.
25. A World Coalition member reports that while civil society organizations in Sri Lanka can request data through the Right to Information Act, the data received are inaccurate.
26. TAEDP reports that execution practices in Taiwan are opaque. Neither the person to be executed nor their family or legal team receives notification prior to the day of execution. Authorities do not await rulings on extraordinary appeals prior to execution. Justice Ministry disputes over Freedom of Government Information Law requests persist.

²² Adam Liptak, *Hip-Hop Icons Tell Justices That Texas Turned Rap Lyrics Into a Death Warrant*, New York Times, Mar. 9, 2026, https://www.nytimes.com/2026/03/09/us/supreme-court-rap-lyrics-death-penalty.html?unlocked_article_code=I.R1A.SpAD.w0l2XFj0s1-6&smid=url-share.

²³ See Ministry of Corrections and Immigration, , <https://sdppublik.ditjenpas.go.id/dwh> (inaccessible as of Mar. 9, 2026).

²⁴ See, e.g., Abdulqudus Ogundapo, *3,688 inmates on death row in Nigeria – NCoS CG*, Premium Times, Mar. 13, 2025, <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/780460-3688-inmates-on-death-row-in-nigeria-ncos-cg.html>.