

Countries that have recently abolished the death penalty:

As of the end of 2006, 86 countries no longer have the death penalty. This is a increase from 16 in 1977. Only three industrialized democracies still execute people: Japan, South Korea, and most states in the U.S.

Year	Abolished death penalty for all crimes	Abolished death penalty for ordinary crimes
1976	Portugal	Canada
1978	Denmark	Spain
1979	Luxembourg, Nicaragua, Norway	Brazil, Fiji, Peru
1981	France, Cape Verde	
1982	Netherlands	
1983		Cyprus, El Salvador
1984		Argentina
1985	Australia	
1987	Haiti, Liechtenstein, German Democratic Republic	
1988		
1989	Cambodia, New Zealand, Romania, Slovenia	
1990	Andorra, Croatia, Czech & Slovak Federal Republic, Hungary, Ireland, Mozambique, Namibia, São Tomé, Príncipe	Nepal
1991	Slovenia, Croatia	
1992	Angola, Switzerland	Paraguay
1993	Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong	
1994	Italy	
1995	Mauritius, Moldova, Spain	South Africa
1996	Belgium	
1998	Bulgaria, Lithuania	
1999	Bermuda	
2000	Poland.	
2001	Chile	
2002	Europe (See note), Serbia, Yugoslavia, Cyprus. Moratorium on executions in the Philippines.	Turkey
2003	Kenya has an informal moratorium on executions.	
2004	Turkey	
2005	Mexico, Liberia	
2007	State of New Jersey, Rwanda	
2009	State of New Mexico	
2011	State of Illinois	
2012	State of Connecticut	

Notes:

- Russia and many more countries not listed above retain capital punishment statutes on their books, but have not executed criminals in many years. Kenya, for example, executed its last prisoner on death row in 1984; Russia in 1996. A UN *Economic and Social Council* report lists the current status of the death penalty in most of the countries of the world. ²
- **2000:** The state of New Hampshire voted to repeal capital punishment. But governor Jeanne Shaheen (D) vetoed it.
- **2002:** The 45-member *Council of Europe* allowed capital punishment in the past, for certain crimes during wartime. Thirty-six members of the council voted to abandon the death penalty at a meeting during 2002-MAY. This became effective on 2003-JUL-4.
- **2003:**
 - The government of *Kenya* had planned to abolish the death penalty in their country by mid-2003, but took no action. ³
 - "The *Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe* has also been lobbying against those countries who allow executions and have observer status at the *Council of Europe*. The aim is to abolish their observer status unless they abandoned the death penalty. This would include the United States and Japan. ⁴
- **2004:** Taiwan's parliament studied the abolition of the death penalty in 2004 but took no action. ⁴ The government has promoted abolition, but has not implemented it because public opinion is about 80% in favor of executions. The number of executions has dropped from 32 in 1998 to three in 2004, three in 2005, and none in 2007. ⁵
- **2007:**
 - The United Nations passed a non-binding resolution calling for a worldwide moratorium on the death penalty on 2007-DEC-18. The U.S., supported by Syria, Iran, China and other dictatorships, opposed the resolution.
 - The State of **New Jersey abolished the death penalty**, also on DEC-18. They were the first U.S. state to do so in 40 years.
 - During the year, legislatures in Maryland, Montana, Nebraska and New Mexico debated whether to abolish the death penalty. All rejected the idea.
- **2008:** The Nebraska legislature debated whether to abandon the death penalty, but decided to retain it.