

the case against the
death penaltycontre la peine
de mort

murder
to be guilty of murder
a murderer ['mɜːdə(r)]
rape [reɪp]
a rapist
a sex offender
a repeat offender, a recidivist
guilt [ɡɪlt]
to demand an eye for an eye

le meurtre
être coupable de meurtre
un meurtrier
le viol
un violeur
un délinquant sexuel
un récidiviste
la culpabilité
appliquer la loi du talion

Capital punishment was abolished in Britain in 1969 and in France in 1981. In Europe, where abolition of capital punishment is a condition of membership of both the European Union and the Council of Europe, Belarus (*la Biélorussie*) is the only country that still uses it. Singapore, Japan and the U.S. are the only developed countries that have kept the death penalty. But in the US, only 30 states use it. In 2019, California's governor announced a moratorium on capital punishment.

to convict sb, to find sb guilty
a conviction
a wrongful conviction
to sentence sb to death
to sentence sb to 25 years imprisonment
a culprit ['kʌlpɪt]
to deter sb from doing sth
to act as a deterrent

déclarer qn coupable, condamner qn
une condamnation
une condamnation à tort
condamner qn à mort
condamner qn à 25 ans de prison
un coupable
dissuader qn de faire qch
avoir un effet dissuasif

Some of the states that most avidly execute prisoners, such as Texas and Oklahoma, have higher crime rates than states that offer only life in prison without parole.

The Economist, March 12th, 2009

a death sentence
a life sentence
life without parole [pə'reʊl]
to jail, imprison sb

une condamnation à mort
une condamnation à perpétuité
perpétuité sans possibilité
de remise de peine
mettre qn en prison

Since World War II, there has been a worldwide trend towards abolishing capital punishment: in 2018, only 20 countries were known to have carried out executions. China

carries out by far the greatest number: several thousand every year, as against 20 to 25 in the USA in the past few years. Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Sudan, Afghanistan still enforce it too. In the United States, where about 2,743 prisoners were on death row in 2018, public support for the death penalty is dwindling.

a prisoner, an inmate, a detainee	un détenu, un prisonnier
to be on death row	être dans les couloirs de la mort
a cell	une cellule
a lawyer	un avocat
an appeal [ə'pi:l]	un appel
to appeal against a decision	faire appel d'une décision
to quash, to overturn a decision	casser une décision (de justice)
to commute a death sentence to life	commuer une condamnation à mort en réclusion à perpétuité
to grant a convict a stay of execution, a reprieve [ri'pri:v]	surseoir à l'exécution d'un condamné
to pardon ['pɑ:dən] a criminal	grâcier un criminel

The United States executed 25 people in 2018, and over 2,700 prisoners remain on death row. It is one of only 56 nations in the world that still practice capital punishment... Should the United States as a country stop using the death penalty? Is it ever justified, such as for the most heinous (*odieux*) crimes? Or do you think it is always cruel and unusual punishment? Alternatively, do you think it should be suspended for practical reasons, such as because it is costly or sometimes unfairly administered?

The New York Times, March 20, 2019.

to execute a convict	executer un condamné
to put sb to death	mettre qn à mort
an executioner [ˌeksɪ'kju:ʃnə]	un bourreau
a lethal injection	une piqûre mortelle
to inject sb with a lethal substance	faire une piqûre mortelle à qn
to hang sb	pendre qn
the guillotine [ˌgɪlə'ti:n]	la guillotine
to guillotine sb	guillotiner qn
to electrocute sb	électrocuter qn
the electric chair	la chaise électrique
to stone sb to death	lapider qn, tuer qn à coups de pierre

Article 5 of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**—adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948—states that “No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.” This is the basis often invoked to justify the abolition of capital punishment.

to abolish, to do away with	abolir
to reinstate, to reintroduce, to restore the death penalty	rétablir la peine de mort
to apply, to enforce the death penalty	appliquer la peine de mort

Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization, was founded in 1961 to fight human-rights abuses. It has played a key role in the struggle against the death penalty world-wide. **Human Rights Watch** is another NGO devoted to the same goal because it considers that the death penalty is a violation of basic human rights.

a miscarriage ['mɪs'kæərɪdʒ] of justice	une erreur judiciaire
DNA analysis, DNA testing	les tests ADN
to prove sb innocent, to exonerate sb	innocenter qn
to be cleared by DNA	être innocenté grâce à l'ADN

The states considering abolition, including Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico and New Hampshire, have shifted (*déplacé*) the debate about capital punishment, at least in part, from morality to cost. Studies show that administering the death penalty is even more expensive than keeping someone in prison for life [...] A recent study by the Urban Institute, a think-tank (*groupe de réflexion*), estimates that the death penalty cost Maryland's taxpayers \$186m between 1978 and 1999. According to the report, a case resulting in a death sentence cost \$3m, almost \$2m more than when the death penalty was not sought.

The Economist, March 12th, 2009

a controversial, contentious issue	un problème controversé
a hot-button issue	un problème sensible, qui suscite de vives réactions
advocates, supporters, proponents of the death penalty	partisans de la peine de mort
critics, opponents of the death penalty	opposants à, adversaires de la peine de mort
to oppose the death penalty, to be opposed to the death penalty	être contre la peine de mort
an abolitionist	un abolitionniste, un partisan de l'abolition de la peine de mort

The Stoning of Soraya M. is a 2009 film adapted from French-Iranian journalist Freidoune Sahebjam's 1994 novel of the same name. The book tells the true story of one of the victims of stonings (*lapidations*) in modern Iran. Soraya M.'s husband wanted out of his marriage. When Soraya began cooking for the widowed husband of a friend, he found his excuse. Abetted (*soutenu*) by village authorities and aided by a skewed (*biaisée*) interpretation of Islamic law, he accused his wife of adultery. She was taken away, buried (*enterrer*) up to her shoulders and neck in the ground, and then stoned to death.

Traduire en français

1. In ancient times, the penalty for murder was death in most countries.
2. If you kill someone by accident you may be charged with manslaughter, which is not the same as murder.
3. The state of Louisiana recently argued that raping a child is tantamount to murder and worthy of death.
4. A murderer who was a minor at the time he committed his crime cannot be sentenced to death except in Iran, Saudi Arabia and Sudan.
5. Following a fire in which his three children died, Todd Willingham was found guilty of murder and sentenced to death in 1992.
6. Willingham was executed in 2004 even though there was no evidence he had intentionally set the house on fire.
7. In 2018, there were about 2,743 death-row prisoners in the US, including some women.
8. Studies show that administering the death penalty is more expensive than keeping someone in prison for life.
9. Sometimes a botched execution means the convict goes on living half an hour after receiving a lethal injection.
10. Under Sharia law, adultery and homosexuality are punishable by death.

Traduire en anglais

1. Les partisans de la peine de mort estiment qu'il faut appliquer la loi du talion en cas de meurtre.
2. M. X. a été reconnu coupable de meurtre et condamné à la prison à perpétuité sans possibilité de remise de peine.
3. Devrait-on rétablir la peine de mort pour les délinquants sexuels récidivistes ?
4. Il faut remarquer qu'aux États-Unis, les États où il y a le plus d'exécutions, le Texas et l'Oklahoma, ont un taux de criminalité particulièrement élevé.
5. Ces statistiques montrent qu'il est loin d'être certain que la peine capitale ait vraiment un effet dissuasif.
6. Comparé avec le nombre de prisonniers exécutés en Chine, le nombre d'exécutions aux États-Unis est presque quantité négligeable.
7. Un condamné à mort peut faire appel de sa condamnation et passer des années et des années en prison.
8. On a calculé qu'un condamné dans les couloirs de la mort coûte beaucoup plus cher à l'État qu'un condamné à la prison à perpétuité.
9. Les sondages montrent que de plus en plus d'Américains s'opposent à la peine capitale.
10. Aux États-Unis, plus de 140 condamnés ont été innocentés grâce aux analyses ADN ces dernières années.

Questions

- How come the US has retained capital punishment, unlike most other developed countries?
What is the situation regarding the death penalty outside the western world?
What is to be done with dangerous criminals?

01. Compléter les phrases avec la préposition ou particule convenable.

- The girl was found guilty murder and sentenced death.
- She appealed her sentence but her appeal was rejected.
- She was injected a lethal cocktail.
- The United States is the only Western country not to have done with the death penalty.

02. Donner la traduction des mots suivants qui sont à la fois noms et verbes

1. guillotine • 2. parole • 3. pardon • 4. appeal • 5. advocate

03. Compléter les définitions suivantes avec les mots appropriés.

- To be on death is to be in prison, waiting to be executed.
- To a death sentence to life imprisonment means to replace one punishment with another.
- A of justice is a situation in which someone is wrongly punished for something they did not do.
- To prove someone is to show that they are not guilty of something.
- To a convict a reprieve means to officially order that they should not be executed.

04. Trouver le mot dérivé de celui de la colonne de gauche.

<i>viol</i>	rape	.....	<i>violeur</i>
<i>abolir</i>	abolish	.....	<i>abolitionniste</i>
<i>meurtre</i>	murder	.....	<i>meurtrier</i>
<i>injecter</i>	inject	.....	<i>piqûre</i>
<i>prison</i>	prison	.....	<i>prisonnier</i>
<i>loi</i>	law	.....	<i>avocat</i>
<i>exécuter</i>	execute	.....	<i>bourreau</i>
<i>commettre un délit</i>	offend	.....	<i>délinquant</i>
<i>critiquer</i>	criticize	.....	<i>un opposant</i>
<i>soutenir</i>	support	.....	<i>un défenseur</i>

05. Associer les mots suivants pour former cinq noms composés et les traduire.

death, chair, life, wrongful, penalty, sentence, sentence death, conviction, electric

28 — CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Translation from English into French

1. In ancient times, the penalty for murder was death in most countries. **Dans les temps anciens, le meurtre était passible de la peine de mort dans la plupart des pays.**
2. If you kill someone by accident you may be charged with manslaughter, which is not the same as murder. **Si l'on tue quelqu'un par accident, on peut être accusé d'homicide involontaire, ce qui n'est pas la même chose que le meurtre.**
3. The state of Louisiana recently argued that raping a child is tantamount to murder and worthy of death. **L'État de Louisiane a récemment soutenu que le viol d'un enfant équivaut à un meurtre et mérite la mort.**
4. A murderer who was a minor at the time he committed his crime cannot be sentenced to death except in Iran, Saudi Arabia and Sudan. **Un meurtrier qui était mineur à l'époque où il a commis son crime ne peut être condamné à mort sauf en Iran, en Arabie Saoudite et au Soudan.**
5. Following a fire in which his three children died, Todd Willingham was found guilty of murder and sentenced to death in 1992. **À la suite d'un incendie où ont péri ses trois enfants, Todd Willingham a été reconnu coupable de meurtre et condamné à mort en 1992.**
6. Willingham was executed in 2004 even though there was no evidence he had intentionally set the house on fire. **Willingham a été exécuté en 2004 alors qu'il n'y avait pas de preuves qu'il avait intentionnellement mis le feu à la maison.**
7. In 2018, there were about 2,743 death-row prisoners in the US, including some women. **En 2018, il y avait environ 2 743 détenus dans les couloirs de la mort aux États-Unis, dont quelques femmes.**
8. Studies show that administering the death penalty is more expensive than keeping someone in prison for life. **Des études montrent que l'application de la peine de mort est plus onéreuse que de mettre quelqu'un en prison à perpétuité.**
9. Sometimes a botched execution means the convict goes on living half an hour after receiving a lethal injection. **Parfois une exécution bâclée signifie que le condamné continue de vivre une demi-heure après avoir reçu un piqûre mortelle.**
10. Under Sharia law, adultery and homosexuality are punishable by death. **Selon la Sharia, l'adultère et l'homosexualité sont passibles de la peine de mort.**

1. Les partisans de la peine de mort estiment qu'il faut appliquer la loi du talion en cas de meurtre. **Supporters of the death penalty consider one should demand an eye for an eye in case of murder.**
2. M. X. a été reconnu coupable de meurtre et condamné à la prison à perpétuité sans possibilité de remise de peine. **Mr X. was found guilty of murder and sentenced to life without parole.**
3. Devrait-on rétablir la peine de mort pour les délinquants sexuels récidivistes ? **Should the death penalty be reinstated for repeat sex offenders?**
4. Il faut remarquer qu'aux États-Unis, les États où il y a le plus d'exécutions, le Texas et l'Oklahoma, ont un taux de criminalité particulièrement élevé. **It must be pointed out that in the US, the states with the highest number of executions, Texas and Oklahoma, have particularly high crime rates.**
5. Ces statistiques montrent qu'il est loin d'être certain que la peine capitale ait vraiment un effet dissuasif. **These figures show it is far from certain that the capital punishment really acts as a deterrent.**
6. Comparé avec le nombre de prisonniers exécutés en Chine, le nombre d'exécutions aux États-Unis est presque quantité négligeable. **Compared to the number of prisoners executed in China, the number of executions in the US is almost negligible.**
7. Un condamné à mort peut faire appel de sa condamnation et passer des années et des années en prison. **A death-row prisoner may appeal against his conviction and spend years and years in jail.**
8. On a calculé qu'un condamné dans les couloirs de la mort coûte beaucoup plus cher à l'État qu'un condamné à la prison à perpétuité. **It has been calculated that a death-row prisoner costs the state much more than one serving a life sentence.**
9. Les sondages montrent que de plus en plus d'Américains s'opposent à la peine capitale. **Polls show more and more Americans are opposing capital punishment.**
10. Aux États-Unis, plus de 140 condamnés ont été innocentés grâce aux analyses ADN ces dernières années. **In the US, over 140 prisoners have been proved innocent thanks to DNA analysis in the past few years.**