



Committee: OHCHR

Topic B: Guaranteeing the protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty.

Chair: Pamela Coutiño Gonzalez

Moderator: Juliana Recio Siller

I. Introduction

The United Nations Human Rights Council is an organization in the United Nations that was founded on March 15th, 2006 by the General Assembly, this institution is made up of 47 state representatives which are changed every three years.

This organization is primarily responsible for human rights. It supports countries to fulfill obligations and help people to know and defend their rights. The mission of this organization is to address human rights concerns, especially threats that would put life in danger and give consideration of civil, cultural, economic, political, and social rights.

The goal of this organization is to eliminate violations of human rights, and one of such violations is death penalty or also known as capital punishment, referring to people being sentenced to death for the crimes they have committed. There are countries sentencing for death penalty not only for globally recognized crimes but for other actions like, when they are against people with mental disabilities, witchcraft, drug related activities, among others.

II. Body

Death penalty has been used for centuries. There were laws to enforce it, as it was considered an effective solution against crime, and unfortunately it is still happening on a regular basis. Among the countries where death penalty is still legal are Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Bahamas, Belize, Qatar, China, North Korea, Cuba and Egypt. There have also been countries that have banned it, such as Germany, Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, Ecuador, Spain, Estonia, and others. The countries that practice death penalty use instruments such as fire, hand or gallow strangulation, decapitation, poisoning, gas chambers, electrocution, and others.

In 2017 there was a study mentioning at least 993 executions in the World, and most of these were in China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Pakistan. In 2018 the number diminished, it was reported that there were 690 executions in 20 countries and most were from China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam and Iraq, they are almost the same countries as the previous year but now Vietnam is added.

Another study reported the countries that eliminated in the law of crimes, which were 106 countries.

III. Conclusion

As a committee, we invite you to give your best solutions to advance in the abolition of death penalty with all the difficulties that entails. We need big solutions to avoid any more violations to human rights. And also we need to acknowledge that this is an issue that is happening and affecting worldwide, and action is needed to support this affected countries.

It is necessary to have an objective in mind to be able to create and implement solutions. To create your own, it is necessary to know that the solution you propose needs to have a positive effect that may help fulfill the goal of this committee.

As death penalty is not giving good outcomes, it is important to consider another way to punish criminals, one way would be life imprisonment, prohibiting freedom, without the right to leave prison for life. This would only be for those who commit major crimes such as murders and rapes, and for those who do minor crimes such as robbery or vandalism opt for other consequences, like going to prison and enforcing effective rehabilitation programs..

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