**USE OF THE DEATH PENALTY:**

**DEVELOPMENTS SINCE 16 DECEMBER 2022**

1. **States with a *de facto* moratorium on the application of the death penalty**
2. **Bahamas:** the State has a *de facto* moratorium in place. According to the World Coalition Against Capital Punishment, no execution has taken place since 2000, and no one has been sentenced to death since this time. As of May 2023, no one was on death row in the State[[1]](#footnote-1).
3. **Saint Vincent and the** Grenadines: the State has a *de facto* moratorium in place. No execution has taken place since 1995, and no one has been sentenced to death since this time. As of March 2023, there was only one prisoner on death row since February 2010[[2]](#footnote-2).
4. **Saint Lucia:** the State has a *de facto* moratorium in place. No executions have taken place since 1995, and no one has been sentenced to death since this time. As of May 2023, no one was on death row in the State[[3]](#footnote-3).
5. **States that have adopted measures for the derogation of the death penalty**
6. **State of Washington of the USA**: in June 2023, the state of Washington officially abolished the death penalty by adopting the Senate Bill 5087[[4]](#footnote-4).
7. **States with no progress in this area**
8. **Antigua and Barbuda**: the State continues to retain the death penalty even though no execution has been carried out since 1991, and no one has been sentenced to death since this time[[5]](#footnote-5). However, as of 2023, no progress has been made in removing this form of punishment from domestic law.
9. **Barbados**: even though no executions have been carried out since 1984[[6]](#footnote-6), there remains a lack of progress in removing this punishment from the State’s statues. As of May 2023, there were six persons sentenced to death in the State[[7]](#footnote-7) which represents a decrease from the 10 persons reported in August 2021[[8]](#footnote-8).
10. **Belize**: there has been a lack of progress in striking the death penalty from the statutory books, even though as of May 2023, the State has not carried out executions since 1985 and no person is currently sentenced to death[[9]](#footnote-9).
11. **Dominica**: continues to retain the death penalty even though no execution has been carried out since 1986[[10]](#footnote-10). As of May 2023, no one was on death row in the State[[11]](#footnote-11), and no progress has been made in removing this form of punishment from domestic law.
12. **Grenada**: the State continues to retain the death penalty even though no execution has been carried out since 1978[[12]](#footnote-12). As of May 2023, there was one prisoner on death row[[13]](#footnote-13).
13. **Guyana**: there is a lack of progress made in removing the death penalty from the statutes. Guyana remains the only country in South America that retains the death penalty as a punishment, with the last known execution being carried out in 1997[[14]](#footnote-14). As of October 2023, according to official information[[15]](#footnote-15), the number of persons on death row was 16, which represents a decline of 3 persons in comparison to the 19 persons reported in 2022[[16]](#footnote-16).
14. **Jamaica**: there is a lack of progress in removing the death penalty from the statutory books, even though the State has not carried out executions since 1988 and no person is currently sentenced to death[[17]](#footnote-17).
15. **Saint Kitts and Nevis**: continues to retain the death penalty even though no execution has been carried out since 2008. As of May 2023, no one was on death row in the State, and no progress has been made in removing this form of punishment from national law[[18]](#footnote-18).
16. **Trinidad and Tobago**: there has been a lack of progress in removing the death penalty from the statutory books, even though the State has not carried out executions since 1999. As of May 2023, there were 48 persons sentenced to death in the State[[19]](#footnote-19).
17. **States that execute the penalty**
18. **United States**: despite the progress made in its abolition, the United States is only country in the Western Hemisphere that executes persons sentenced to this punishment. According to the Death Penalty Information Center, as of October 11, 2023, a total of 20 prisoners have been executed in the country[[20]](#footnote-20). On the other hand, a judicial decision adopted in January 2023 by the Alabama State Supreme Court eliminated the requirement that all executions be carried out within one day and gave the Governor the power to set the deadline for executions. That decision eliminated the automatic "plain error" review, which consisted of the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals automatically reviewing death penalty cases for plain error at trial. Thus, the Appellate Court can still conduct such a review, but they are no longer required to do so[[21]](#footnote-21).
1. World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, [The Bahamas](https://worldcoalition.org/pays/bahamas/), August 30, 2023. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, [Saint Vincent and the Grenadines](https://worldcoalition.org/pays/saint-vincent-and-the-grenadines/), May 23, 2023; St Vincent Times, [St. Vincent’s gruesome murders and the call for the ‘death penalty’](https://www.stvincenttimes.com/st-vincents-gruesome-murders-and-the-call-for-the-death-penalty/), March 6, 2023. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, [Saint Lucia](https://worldcoalition.org/pays/saint-lucia/), May 23, 2023. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Senate Democrats, [Government of Washington, Washington officially abolishes the death penalty](https://senatedemocrats.wa.gov/pedersen/2023/06/02/washington-officially-abolishes-the-death-penalty/), June 2, 2023. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, [Antigua and Barbuda](https://worldcoalition.org/pays/antigua-and-barbuda/), May 30, 2023. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, [Barbados](http://worldcoalition.org/pays/barbados/), May 23, 2023. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, [Barbados](http://worldcoalition.org/pays/barbados/), May 23, 2023. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. IACHR, [Annual Report, Chapter IV.A “Barbados”](https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2021/Chapters/IA2021cap4A-en.pdf) 2021, para. 103. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, [Belize](https://worldcoalition.org/pays/belize/), May 23, 2023. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. The Sun Dominica, [We’re older, not over](http://sundominica.com/articles/we-are-older-not-over-7183/), September 24, 2023. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. 18 Against the Death Penalty, [Dominica](https://worldcoalition.org/pays/dominica/), May 23, 2023. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, [Grenada](https://worldcoalition.org/pays/grenada/), May 23, 2023. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. IACHR, [Annual Report, Chapter IV.A “Grenada”,](https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2022/Chapters/6-IA2022_Cap_4A_EN.pdf) 2022, para. 450; World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, [Grenada](https://worldcoalition.org/pays/grenada/), May 23, 2023. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, [Guyana](https://worldcoalition.org/pays/guyana/), May 23, 2023. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. The Co-operative Republic of Guyana, Inputs for the 2023 Annual Report of the IACHR, pg. 9. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. IACHR, [IACHR Annual Report, Chapter IV.A “Guyana”](https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2022/Chapters/6-IA2022_Cap_4A_EN.pdf), 2022, para. 469. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, [Jamaica](https://worldcoalition.org/pays/jamaica/), May 23, 2023. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, [Saint Kitts and Nevis](https://worldcoalition.org/pays/saint-kitts-and-nevis/), May 23, 2023. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, [Trinidad and Tobago](https://worldcoalition.org/pays/trinidad-and-tobago/), May 23, 2023. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Death Penalty Information Center, [Execution List 2023](https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/executions/2023), October 11, 2023. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Fox News, [Alabama Supreme Court opens window to carry out death sentences after string of troubled executions](https://www.foxnews.com/us/alabama-supreme-court-opens-window-carry-out-death-sentences-string-troubled-executions), January 19, 2023; Associated Press News, [Alabama extends time for executions, ends automatic review](https://apnews.com/article/crime-alabama-state-government-legal-proceedings-9ca3c9a334cd1be84dccd5507ea95b9e), January 18, 2023; y Equal Justice Initiative, [Alabama Supreme Court Issues New Execution Rule That Is Unprecedented in the U.S.](https://eji.org/news/alabama-supreme-court-issues-new-execution-rule-that-is-unprecedented-in-the-us/), January 17, 2023. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)