

DEATH SENTENCES AND EXECUTIONS 2013



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Our vision is for every person to enjoy all the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.

We are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion and are funded mainly by our membership and public donations.

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Amnesty International Publications

First published in 2014 by
Amnesty International Publications
International Secretariat
Peter Benenson House
1 Easton Street
London WC1X 0DW
United Kingdom
www.amnesty.org

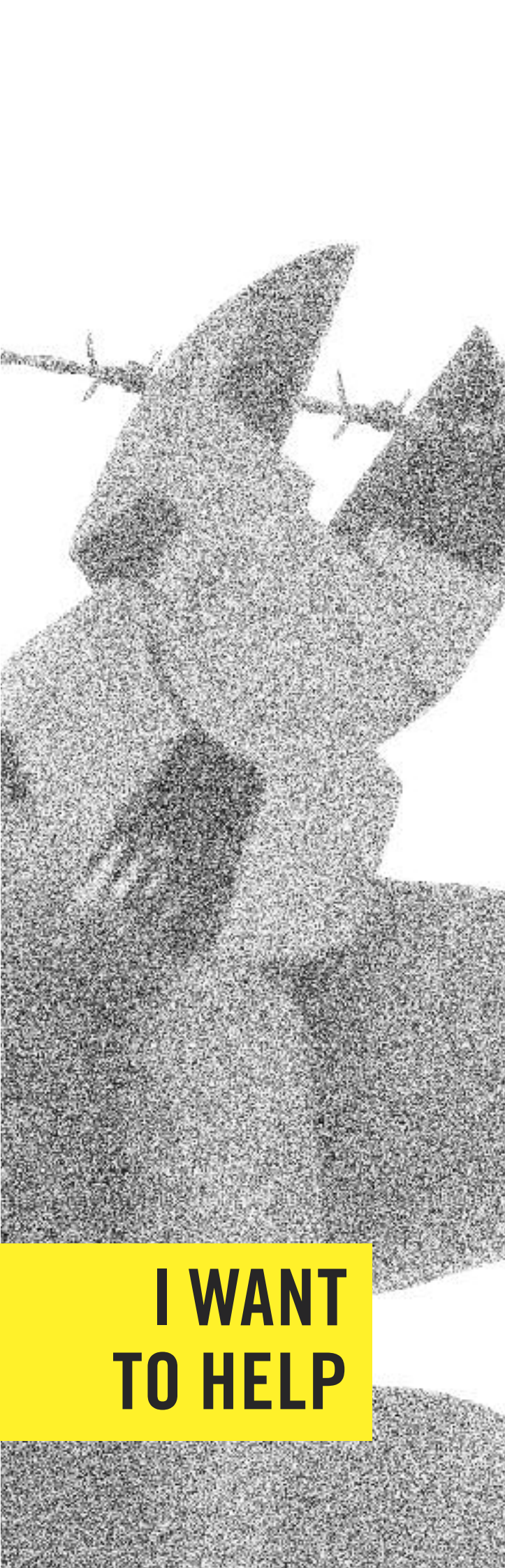
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Index: ACT 50/001/2014
Original language: English
Printed by Amnesty International,
International Secretariat, United Kingdom

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Cover image: This poster won first prize in a competition organized in October 2013 by Amnesty International Paraguay with the title “Towards a world without the death penalty”.

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TO HELP**

WHETHER IN A HIGH-PROFILE CONFLICT OR A FORGOTTEN CORNER OF THE GLOBE, **AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL** CAMPAIGNS FOR JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND DIGNITY FOR ALL AND SEEKS TO GALVANIZE PUBLIC SUPPORT TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD

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Developments in the use of the death penalty in 2013 confirmed that its application is confined to a minority of countries. However, some severe setbacks have to be acknowledged. The resumption of executions in Indonesia, Kuwait, Nigeria and Viet Nam, as well as the marked increase in reported executions in Iran and Iraq, were among the negative facts that Amnesty International recorded during the year. Executions were recorded in 22 countries in 2013, one more than in 2012.

The USA remained the only country in the Americas to have imposed death sentences, but only nine US states carried out executions in 2013, as in the previous year. Maryland became the 18th abolitionist US state in May 2013.

While Belarus continued to be the only country in Europe and Central Asia to impose death sentences, no executions were recorded last year. Commutations in Singapore and enhanced legal safeguards in China showed that even among traditional supporters of the death penalty progress is visible. Constitutional and legal review processes in Benin, Comoros, Ghana and Sierra Leone created real opportunities for the abolition of capital punishment.

This report analyses some of the key developments in the worldwide application of the death penalty in 2013, citing figures gathered by Amnesty International on the number of death sentences handed down and executions carried out.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases without exception, regardless of the nature or circumstances of the crime; guilt, innocence or other characteristics of the individual; or the method used by the state to carry out the execution.

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March 2014

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