



Committee on the Rights of the Child 68th Session List of Issues

Tanzania - Death Penalty Abolitionist de facto

Last execution: 1994 ¹

Number of prisoners on death row: 364 (15 October 2013) ²

Number of death sentences: at least 7 (2013) ³

Abolitionist de facto: ⁴

- In 2008, the Law Reform Commission of Tanzania recommended the abolition of the death penalty in a report requested by the government.
- In November 2009, the President commuted the sentences of 75 prisoners on death row.
- However, there have been no steps towards an official moratorium or abolition.

Mandatory death penalty:

- Under the penal code, murder and felony murder carry a mandatory death penalty.
- Death Penalty Worldwide could not report on any provisions allowing for the mitigation of the sentence for murder. ⁵

Pregnant women & women with young children:

- The penal code provides that pregnant women may not be executed. ⁶
- Tanzania is a party to the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, which prohibits executions of nursing mothers.

It was reported that relatives of suspects, including children, may be arrested and detained by police when the suspect flees to avoid arrest, amounting to collective punishment. ⁷

Conditions of detention and the impact on families:

- Prisons in mainland Tanzania are overcrowded. Currently, it is reported that death row prison cells hold three inmates instead of the required one. ⁸
- One prison officer describes the "delays in execution of the inmates" as resulting in overcrowding in prison cells, as death row prisoners cannot be accommodated with other

¹ [Death Penalty Worldwide](#)

² Figures from Tanzania Prison Services (TPS) cited by [Hands Off Cain](#)

³ Amnesty International (2014) [Death Sentences and Executions: 2013](#)

⁴ [Death Penalty Worldwide](#)

⁵ [Death Penalty Worldwide](#)

⁶ Tanzania is party to the ICCPR and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, which prohibit the execution of pregnant women. [Death Penalty Worldwide](#)

⁷ International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) & Legal and Human Rights Centre (2005) [Tanzania: The death sentence institutionalised ?](#)

⁸ [Hands Off Cain](#) (2014)