

Malaysia to abolish the death penalty

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The Malaysian government has stated it intends to abolish the death penalty in a move that has been welcomed by human rights campaigners. Malaysia's Law Minister said:

"The death penalty will be abolished. Full stop." He added: "Since we are abolishing the sentence, all executions should not be carried out." There are currently over 1,267 people on death row in Malaysia who are set to win a reprieve. The law minister said prisoners on death row would be released or have their sentences commuted. He said: "When commuted, they would have to face life imprisonment because there had been several deaths that were caused by the offender and so they were sentenced to death."

Malaysia's decision was hailed by Amnesty International. Its Secretary General Kumi Naidoo said: "Malaysia must now join the 106 countries who have turned their backs for good on the ultimate cruel, inhumane, degrading punishment. The world is watching." Mr Naidoo added: "There is no time to waste. The death penalty should have been consigned to the history books long ago. Malaysia's new government has promised to deliver on human rights, and today's announcement is an encouraging sign, but much more needs to be done." There are still 23 countries that retain the death penalty. According to Amnesty International, there were 993 executions recorded worldwide in 2017.

Sources: scmp.com / newsweek.com / aljazeera.com

Writing

All countries in the world should abolish the death penalty. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Malaysia / death penalty / abolished / executions / prisoners / sentences / death / Amnesty International / ultimate / cruel / inhumane / history books / worldwide

True / False

- Human rights campaigners have hailed Malaysia's decision. T / F
- There are over one thousand prisoners on death row in Malaysia. T / F
- Prisoners on death row will now have to serve life sentences. T / F
- The prisoners on death row have killed thousands of people. T / F
- Fewer than 106 countries have abolished the death penalty. T / F
- Amnesty International said this issue should be in a history book. T / F
- There are 23 countries that still have the death penalty. T / F
- Amnesty International said there were over 1,000 executions in 2017. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. intend | a. scrapping |
| 2. move | b. heartening |
| 3. abolishing | c. set free |
| 4. released | d. forever |
| 5. offender | e. put |
| 6. for good | f. plan |
| 7. degrading | g. humiliating |
| 8. consigned | h. globally |
| 9. encouraging | i. action |
| 10. worldwide | j. lawbreaker |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think of the death penalty?
- What do you think of human rights campaigners?
- What do you think of death row?
- What does the death penalty achieve?
- Should life imprisonment mean imprisonment forever?
- What is the best way to deal with serious criminals?
- What do you think of prisons?
- What sentence would you give to killers?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. it intends to | a. waste |
| 2. welcomed by | b. commuted |
| 3. over 1,267 people | c. imprisonment |
| 4. have their sentences | d. by Amnesty International |
| 5. they would have to face life | e. on death row |
| 6. Malaysia's decision was hailed | f. to be done |
| 7. 106 countries who have turned | g. abolish the death penalty |
| 8. There is no time to | h. an encouraging sign |
| 9. today's announcement is | i. their backs for good |
| 10. much more needs | j. human rights campaigners |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you know about Amnesty International?
- Will the death penalty be abolished in all countries?
- How inhumane is the death penalty?
- What other things should be consigned to the history books?
- What other human rights issues need addressing?
- What more needs to be done?
- What questions would you like to ask Malaysia's leader?

Spelling

- human rights npaimjegcars
- all iocxtuense should not be carried out
- There are ryelnrcut over 1,267 people
- win a erveiep
- have their sentences mtmcdoeu
- deaths that were caused by the erfondfe
- ultimate cruel, hanumnei...
- ieagnrgdd punishment
- cegsdinno to the history books
- today's noutnaenmnce
- an gourciaeng sign
- countries that aitern the death penalty

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. a	4. c	5. j
6. d	7. g	8. e	9. b	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Human Rights

You think human rights is the most important thing to campaign for. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their issues are not as worthy. Also, tell the others which is the issue you would not campaign for of these (and why): anti-corruption, immigration or global warming.

Role B – Anti-Corruption

You think anti-corruption is the most important thing to campaign for. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their issues are not as worthy. Also, tell the others which is the issue you would not campaign for of these (and why): human rights, immigration or global warming.

Role C – Immigration

You think immigration is the most important thing to campaign for. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their issues are not as worthy. Also, tell the others which is the issue you would not campaign for of these (and why): anti-corruption, human rights or global warming.

Role D – Global Warming

You think global warming is the most important thing to campaign for. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their issues are not as worthy. Also, tell the others which is the issue you would not campaign for of these (and why): anti-corruption, immigration or human rights.

Speaking – Campaigners

Rank these with your partner. Put the campaigners you would support most at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| • Anti-corruption | • Gun ownership |
| • Lower taxes | • Human rights |
| • Immigration | • Global warming |
| • Jobs | • Anti-racism |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.