**Response to the OHCHR Call for input on the imposition of the death penalty and its impact**

**Submitted by**

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

**The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty** (WCADP), an alliance of more than 150 NGOs, bar associations, local authorities, and unions, was created in Rome on 13 May 2002. The aim of the World Coalition is to strengthen the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty. Its ultimate objective is to obtain the universal abolition of the death penalty. To achieve its goal, the World Coalition advocates for a definitive end to death sentences and executions in those countries where the death penalty is in force. In some countries, it is seeking to obtain a reduction in the use of capital punishment as a first step towards abolition.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The World Coalition submits this report in response to a call for input from the **Special Rapporteur** on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions for their report on the circumstances surrounding the imposition and the enforcement of the death penalty, and the **impact of the death penalty on individuals sentenced to death, their family members, and other individuals concerned.** It is based on research conducted for the 2022 World Day Against the Death Penalty dedicated to the link between the death penalty and torture, as well as research conducted for the 2018 World Day dedicated to living conditions on death row and to the 2019 World Day dedicated to the rights of children sentenced to death.

1. **Treatment of individuals sentenced to death, including conditions on death row and access to family members and legal representatives**
2. Conditions of detention for people sentenced to death vary from one country to another. However, certain conditions are systematically found in each country. For example, in many countries, people sentenced to death are detained in solitary confinement, and can spend almost all day in their cells without permission to leave[[1]](#footnote-1). Other general conditions have been listed, such as: Prison overcrowding[[2]](#footnote-2), insufficient food and drinking water[[3]](#footnote-3), lack of medical care[[4]](#footnote-4), deplorable sanitary conditions[[5]](#footnote-5), physical violence. In some countries, there are even more extreme conditions faced by those sentenced to death[[6]](#footnote-6).
3. Waiting on death row: people sentenced to death do not "only" face these bad physical conditions; they awake each day and must face their fates that surround life on death row again and again. This constant exposure to death is unfathomably unbearable—especially when the time period between sentencing and death continues to increase[[7]](#footnote-7). As a consequence, more and more people die on death row due to aging and the time spent on death row, but also due to lack of medical treatment and neglect[[8]](#footnote-8). In some cases, death row prisoners commit suicide out of despair[[9]](#footnote-9).
4. What dignity in the midst of a scheduled death? For people sentenced to death, once all remedies have been exhausted, they can be executed. This can happen without any notification from the authorities or with the announcement of the date of execution in advance. In both cases, the psychological effects are significant. On the one hand, not knowing and telling oneself that every day can be the day of its execution and on the other hand, knowing the date of its scheduled death. When prisoners sentenced to death are not notified of their execution date, (in countries such as Barbados, Belarus, Japan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Uganda and Zimbabwe)[[10]](#footnote-10), it causes extreme psychological anguish[[11]](#footnote-11). In other cases, detainees are informed and therefore prepare themselves for their scheduled death[[12]](#footnote-12).
5. Death row phenomenon - Life on death row can lead to several mental trauma and physical deterioration of death row prisoners. The effects of prolonged delay under difficult death row conditions have been internationally recognized as the death row phenomenon. Although there is no universal definition, the death row phenomenon can be defined as “a prolonged delay under the harsh conditions of death row”. Thus, the death row phenomenon is not due to delay alone. Nor is it a product of harsh conditions in and of themselves. Rather, it is the deadly combination of the two. As a result of this phenomenon, life on death row can lead to several psychological traumas as well as physical and mental deterioration of people sentenced to death[[13]](#footnote-13).
6. The treatment of women sentenced to death deserves a special mention. Most facilities are designed with the majority male population in mind, the unique needs and vulnerabilities of women are overlooked. In countries that do not execute women, the prolonged length of their death sentences means that poor conditions have a disproportionate impact on their physical and mental well-being. Women serving death sentences are vulnerable to violence, particularly in prisons where male staff supervise them, or where prison authorities fail to protect them from violence at the hands of other prisoners. [[14]](#footnote-14) Prisons generally fail to provide women with female-specific healthcare and deprive them of necessary hygienic products. For those serving long terms in prison, healthcare needs become greater and more complex – including mental ill-health and complications from lack of hygiene – and particularly in overcrowded facilities or where health provision is lacking. Many prisons do not proactively provide healthcare and hygiene adequate for women’s menstruation.[[15]](#footnote-15) In most death penalty states, female prisoners do not receive enough food, whether or not they are on death row. Prisoners generally rely on their families to provide or supplement meager rations provided by prisons, but women under sentence of death, who are often abandoned by their families, cannot rely on food support from the outside. Recognizing the detrimental impact of isolation on women, the Bangkok Rules stress the importance of women’s communication with family and friends, and especially contact with their children. Nevertheless, the social stigma associated with women who are convicted and imprisoned, paired in some cases with restrictive family and child visitation rules and allocation far from their communities, means that many female death row prisoners around the world suffer an enduring lack of family contact. This is especially true for women convicted of violence against a family member, which often leads to family abandonment.[[16]](#footnote-16)
7. **Impact of the death penalty on family members, including children of parents sentenced to death**
8. Although most prisoners have access to visits from their families and relatives, prisons remain hermetic and inaccessible. Families may face barriers in visiting their loved ones in prison. These obstacles can differ from one prison to another. It is often a question of geographical remoteness, but also of the expenses that visiting their relatives can generate and finally stigma and social ostracization. Indeed, although the sentenced person is alive, he is considered as "living dead"[[17]](#footnote-17). Visits can thus become spaced, reinforcing the dimension of oblivion for people who are detained on death row. Some visits even stop overnight because the pain of separation is too much to bear. When visits still take place, families also suffer the impact of conditions of detention. In many cases, families cannot have physical contact and may be separated by glass. There is also the lack of privacy, with the guards often listening to conversations, preventing families from having the necessary moments of intimacy[[18]](#footnote-18).
9. According to Amnesty International, at least 28,670 people in the world were on death row at the end of 2021. Behind this statistic, we can only guess how many of those individuals have children- and conversely how many children have had a parent who has been executed. The Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) recognizes that this final number is difficult to obtain. Lacking those figures may also explain part of the reason why those children who are faced with this problem lack support they could, and should, legitimately receive.[[19]](#footnote-19)
10. Children in most cases are not considered when their parents are captured and taken to prison. **In Uganda** there are many children who have dropped out of school, joined prostitution and robbery, became child parents due to defilement, just because they lost focus when their parents were sentenced to death. Families have been broken where family members have lost hope of seeing their relatives come out of prison due to the nature of the case and punishment given to their family members. However, some mothers have taken on the responsibility to take care of their children while their husbands are in prisons, thanks to some CSOs which have taken on the task to work for and with the parents and children whose husbands/ wives/ parents are in prison[[20]](#footnote-20).
11. **Impact of the death penalty on other individuals, including prison officers, executioners, and medical practitioners involved in the execution.**
12. The impact of death row on legal professionals, lawyers - Before examining what impact these conditions of detention may have on lawyers, it should not be forgotten that for a post-conviction capital defense lawyer, the stakes are as high as can be: loss of a case means loss of a client’s life. Lawyers may sometimes go to prison and not have the opportunity to meet their clients under "normal" conditions, as lack of confidentiality is often criticized and denounced. These hazards to prepare the defense of a person already sentenced to death have a real impact on the defense, and if the sentenced person loses his appeal, that the lawyer fails to commute the sentence, it is a human life that will be killed. The looming threat of execution makes the work of lawyers dealing with a case that has already been sentenced all the more difficult and crucial. The urgent need for representation of each client and the need to be experienced and well informed for this type of file implies a substantial individual and professional investment[[21]](#footnote-21).
13. The impact of death row on prison staff - It often happens that prison staff, confronted daily to death row and deplorable conditions of detention mentioned above, are deeply affected by the environment, the constant suffering they face, and the role they play in this deadly scheme. Harsh prison conditions can make things worse not only for prisoners but also for prison staff. Despite the stark conditions, death rows are still places where human connections form. In all but the most extreme solitary settings, guards engage with prisoners regularly, Guards may spend more time with death row prisoners than with friends or family outside and can develop empathy towards the prisoners and a sentimental bond sometimes difficult to manage afterwards. Managing visits from family members can be emotionally tough for guards, especially when prisoners are banned from touching their visitors and visits take place through glass partitions or mesh wires. The moment when the guards see the prisoner for the last time can sometimes be very difficult, when the prisoners leave for the execution, many guards testimonies have reported a feeling of sadness.[[22]](#footnote-22) Capital punishment also affects prison personnel. Anvar Aqdam, who served at Mahhabad Prison in several positions including guard and supervisor of the visitation facility from approximately 2006-2017, spoke of mental disturbances as a result of his work, including witnessing condemned individuals becoming incontinent at the moment of hanging. A coworker who witnessed a final visitation lost the ability to speak and move.[[23]](#footnote-23)
14. **Information provided to individuals on death row, their families, and legal representatives in the lead-up to executions (e.g. date of execution, visits prior to the execution date, etc.)**
15. Article 9(4) of the CRC guarantees the child a right to be informed by the State of the location of their parent from whom they are separated where incarceration is the reason for separation. The same right to information applies if a parent dies or is killed “from any cause while the person is in the custody of the State” and, indeed, the case of a death sentenced being carried out. In spite of these legal guarantees, in some countries the date and place of the execution, as well of the place of burial, is not shared with the family. This is particularly the case in countries in which the death penalty is a State secret.[[24]](#footnote-24)
16. The right to information requires that family members be informed of the place and date of the execution and/or of the place of burial. The Committee Against Torture has at several times expressed its concerns about the lack of information of the execution of individuals shared in Belarus, Japan , Mongolia or Uzbekistan. This includes provision of information to children unless, as Stated in the CRC article 9(4) that “the provision of the information (…) would be detrimental to the well-being of the child”. The violation of the right to information may be considered, in a wider perspective, as a form of torture to which the child of a parent sentenced to death is also subjected.[[25]](#footnote-25)
17. In **Japan**, a person sentenced to the death penalty learns about the date of their execution within hours of when it will take place.[[26]](#footnote-26) In November 2021, two prisoners on death row in Japan filed a lawsuit regarding the short notice of executions, citing it as inhumane and a violation of the nation’s constitution. It causes prisoners to “live in fear every morning that that day will be their last.”[[27]](#footnote-27) The plaintiffs are demanding an end to Japan’s same-day notifications, stating it provides no time to contact legal counsel and challenge the execution and is “psychologically tortious”[[28]](#footnote-28). In Japan, “Families are only told of an execution after it has taken place. The crime, along with the name of the individual and the place of execution are announced to the media after the prisoner's death.”[[29]](#footnote-29)
18. In the same way as in Japan, the **United States** can repeatedly submit death row prisoner to imminent execution. The Center for Constitutional Rights has said that “the intense strain of repeatedly coming within hours or days of execution” is torture. A psychiatrist and former Harvard Medical School professor explained why these practices are especially detrimental to someone with mental retardation: “People with mental retardation struggle with the ability to think abstractly. They have very powerful feelings but because they have fewer cognitive strengths they are less able to manage those feelings than others are.” [[30]](#footnote-30)
1. <https://worldcoalition.org/document/detailed-factsheet-on-living-conditions-on-death-row/> In the UNITED STATES, in some states, such as California or Texas, solitary confinement is complete, and prisoners remain locked in their cells all day long, 22 hours a day . They are kept in isolation and thus endure extreme confinement. In JAPAN, prisoners are not allowed to move about in their cell as they are required to remain squatted. No exercise is allowed inside the cell . In PAKISTAN, those sentenced to death can walk outside for only about an hour a day, while they are often given designated areas known as ‘death cells’ where “eight prisoners will be forced to share an eight-by-ten ft cell”. In VIETNAM, the living conditions of people sentenced to death are particularly harsh: prisoners deemed dangerous are detached from their chains for only 15 minutes a day to wash themselves. (p.3) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://worldcoalition.org/document/detailed-factsheet-on-living-conditions-on-death-row/> In MALAWI, prisoners sleep in shifts and lie on their sides, head to foot, because of the lack of space. Between 4 pm and 6 am the cells are locked; during that time 200 men share a 8 by 6-foot cell designed to fit 2 or 3 men.

In GHANA, prison Services officials reported that in one prison in Ghana 104 death row prisoners were held in a cell designed to hold only 24 prisoners. (p.3) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://worldcoalition.org/document/detailed-factsheet-on-living-conditions-on-death-row/> In MOROCCO, a man testifies: “I became a living dead. Prison is about deprivation. I forgot the flavour of fruits. I spent eighteen years without eating them even once” . In INDONESIA, food provided by prisons is insufficient, and guards often seek bribes to allow family members to supplement their relatives’ diets . (p4) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://worldcoalition.org/document/detailed-factsheet-on-living-conditions-on-death-row/> In BELARUS, a prisoner sentenced to death describes the lack of medical care: “The doctor stopped by and asked if anyone needed medical care. The newcomers, like me, who were there for the first time, answered that they needed medical help to what the doctor replied, “See my doctor's white uniform? You won’t see it again.” And we didn’t.” In UGANDA’s Jinja Prison, doctors visit only twice a month. When people on death row fall sick the prison’s medical team is hesitant to treat them since “they have been sentenced to die anyway”. The lack of medical care is particularly acute for mentally ill prisoners. In PAKISTAN, mentally ill prisoners are often kept together in one cell. By way of example, at one Punjab prison, forty mentally ill prisoners were once chained to a wall in the same cell where incompetent doctors subjected prisoners to substandard medical care. (p4) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://worldcoalition.org/document/detailed-factsheet-on-living-conditions-on-death-row/> Hanut, a prisoner sentenced to death in INDIA revealed that “until 2010, there were no toilets in the prison. The prisoners were provided a steel tube inside their cells for daily toiletry needs. Hanut recalled the horror of the days on which the tub was not cleaned. The entire cell would be filled with an unbearable stench and even the though of consuming tea within the same cell was repulsive” (p4) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. <https://worldcoalition.org/document/detailed-factsheet-on-living-conditions-on-death-row/> Former staff of the Pretrial Detention Centre No. 1 in BELARUS testifies: “From the very beginning, they [prisoners] face maximum security restrictions. It’s nowhere written down, but it’s a fact. The rules prohibit them to lie or sit on the plank beds from 6 am to 10 pm. […] Death convicts are never taken out for a walk. It is prohibited by the law although there is a small yard in the new building. The death convicts are usually brought there after lunch during frequent inspections of cells […]. Sometimes they can be locked in the shower, but most often they are kept in the yard”. People sentenced to death in China, Saint Lucia, South Sudan, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam are often shackled to the wall for their entire detention or for prolonged periods of time. In some countries, such as, Barbados, Belarus, Japan, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe, death row prisoners are often kept in cages, confined to dark rooms, kept next to the gallows where they can hear executions. (p4) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <https://worldcoalition.org/document/detailed-factsheet-on-living-conditions-on-death-row/> In the UNITED STATES, at least 40% of prisoners sentenced to death have spent more than 20 years on death row. With an increase of 171.62% since 1984, a prisoner on death row can wait 190 months on average before being executed. Some people have been on death row for so many years that they need wheelchairs or a walker . In INDIA, death row prisoners spend a very long time in prison. While the median time on death row is 10 years and 5 months, some prisoners have spent more than 25 years locked in a cell. Navinder Sing spent more than 25 years on death row, only to see his pardon application rejected by the Indian Supreme Court after 10 years of trial .In CHINA the time between sentencing and execution is unpredictable. An average “death row” prisoner can expect to wait roughly two months from the time the court approves their death sentence to the time of execution. But this period can vary considerably, with a small handful of people waiting more than 200 days and others waiting less than a week. (p4) [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. <https://worldcoalition.org/document/detailed-factsheet-on-living-conditions-on-death-row/> A former prisoner sentenced to death in North Kivu in DRC testifies on the conditions of detention in the Muzenze prison in Goma, which today houses 3,021 prisoners, whereas its initial capacity was 150 people.

"During this first quarter of 2018 in Munzenze prison in Goma, there were 7 deaths related to difficult detention conditions [...] Prisoners are becoming increasingly aggressive in order to survive in prisons. For most death row inmates, their life expectancy in prison is 5 years. But many of them die before 5 years as a result of difficult living conditions (p5) [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Recent cases have been documented in South Asia: <https://worldcoalition.org/2022/05/03/south-asia-death-penalty-mental-health/> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Death Row Conditions, *The Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide*, available here: <http://www.deathpenaltyworldwide.org/death-row-conditions.cfm> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. <https://worldcoalition.org/document/detailed-factsheet-on-living-conditions-on-death-row/> A lawyer form NIGERIA explained: “If they plan to execute a prisoner, the hangman will come to the prison the day before, to wash the gallows. The inmates will get the information. They know there will be an execution the day after.”

Arthur Angel sentenced to death in NIGERIA in 1984 and released in 2000 confirmed that they tried to find out who would be next. He remembered: “We would ask the wardens, from which state is the person, what is the crime, how long ago. They would tell us little by little and so we could find out.”

One former death row prisoner who spent 11 years on death row said: “I’ve dreamt I was hanged, that I was killed.” Another who is still on death row: “I have fear. I don’t even take my today’s breakfast because of that fear.” In PAKISTAN, people sentenced to death do not know the date of their execution; they are constantly waiting. Sohail Yafat was wrongfully charged with murder in 2001. He spent 10 years in prison before he was exonerated. “Prisons become silent when prisoners learn that an execution warrant has been issued. I barely slept at night when I was a prisoner there for ten years. The sounds of men snoring, crying and sometimes screaming in their sleep will keep you awake. The exception was when we knew that one of us was heading to the gallows. We would get silence, but we would lose our sleep. Even those of us who were not on death row would tense up. Held like animals in a pen, we would turn to the one thing that we could do: pray” (p.6) [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. <https://worldcoalition.org/document/detailed-factsheet-on-living-conditions-on-death-row/> In April 2015, the INDONESIAN authorities had scheduled the execution of several persons on death row, including eight foreigners and one Indonesian, all accused of drug trafficking. They were informed of their execution 72 hours before and from that moment their long march towards death begun: they were prepared by the authorities and transported to Nusakambangan Island, also known as "death island", where they would be executed. The day before, as a last meal, they all ate fried chicken, while the 9 ambulances with the coffins of each of them were ready to transport the remains the next day. One of the people on the list, Mary Jane Veloso, Filipino, had her execution suspended at the last minute. Although this is an obvious relief, the psychological torture of having been prepared for one's own execution is a real trauma [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. <https://worldcoalition.org/document/detailed-factsheet-on-living-conditions-on-death-row/> A former prisoner on death row in Texas, USA testifies: “I saw guys who dropped their appeals because of the intolerable conditions. Before his execution, one inmate told me he would rather die than continue existing under these inhumane conditions. I saw guys come to prison sane, and leave this world insane, talking nonsense on the execution gurney. One guy suffered some of his last days smearing feces, lying naked in the recreation yard, and urinating on himself.” One INDIAN judge has noted as much about prisoners subject to solitary while awaiting death: “[the prisoner] must, by now, be more a vegetable than a person and hanging a vegetable is not [the] death penalty” (p8) [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. <https://worldcoalition.org/document/prison-conditions-for-women-facing-the-death-penalty-a-factsheet/> For example, in China, women prisoners (like their male counterparts) suffer at the hands of ‘cell trustees’, who control their cellmates through abusive means, sometimes leading to deaths. Women’s vulnerability, due to gender and social norms, means that they often seek protection from staff or other female prisoners. In some cases, for instance in Tanzania, predatory and arguably coercive ‘relationships’ ensue, and women on death row may even be required to perform sexual acts to receive basic necessities, such as food. In Sierra Leone, there are reports that prison guards and other prisoners abuse female prisoners with mental health disorders. Shackling death row prisoners is common in some countries, for instance in China where shackles are used at all times (on hands and feet). There have been reports that children are required to help shackled women eat, illustrating the impacts of this humiliating and unnecessary practice. Despite the Bangkok Rules prohibiting the use of restraints on women who are pregnant, during labor or after birth, in Sudan a death row woman prisoner was shackled to heavy chains in prison while eight months pregnant and caring for a young child, and during childbirth. Similarly, death row prisoners are frequently held in solitary confinement, either by virtue of their sentence or as a disciplinary sanction. Despite limitations set down in the Mandela Rules, prolonged solitary confinement (which is prohibited) for women and men on death row has been reported in China, Indonesia, Jordan, India and the United States. Evidence shows that solitary confinement brings unique harms and dangers to women prisoners. This is linked to the disproportionately high rates of mental illness and trauma from past abuse suffered by women in prison. Solitary confinement also restricts visits between a mother and her children, in effect punishing the children. Prison overcrowding affects detention facilities globally, including female death row, resulting in a range of human rights violations and dangerously unhygienic conditions. In Thailand, for example, where female death row prisoners are held with the general prison population, cells are so crowded that women must take turns sleeping on the bare floor. In Malawi, some women must urinate or defecate in a bucket at night because the toilets outside the cells are inaccessible at nighttime. While this is also the case for men, such a lack of privacy brings disproportionate stigma on women and illustrates how the design of prison infrastructure can impact negatively on meeting women’s specific needs. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. <https://worldcoalition.org/document/prison-conditions-for-women-facing-the-death-penalty-a-factsheet/> In Zambia, prisoners must wash menstrual cloths with inadequate or no detergent, since the prison does not supply soap.17 The lack of menstruation care is compounded by the lack of privacy and washing and bathing facilities in most prisons. Moreover, sanitary napkins, when provided, are sometimes withheld as punishment.18 Women prisoners sometimes face greater challenges in accessing adequate healthcare than their male counterparts. In Indonesia, health clinics in women’s prisons are basic and not always staffed with doctors, unlike infirmaries in men’s larger prisons. Women must endure shackled transport to hospitals for even minor treatment.19 Mental healthcare is rarely available even though a high percentage of women in prison have histories of sexual and physical trauma and are susceptible to depression.20 [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. <https://worldcoalition.org/document/prison-conditions-for-women-facing-the-death-penalty-a-factsheet/> 27 In Malawi, women on death row rarely receive visits.28 Prisons in Nigeria or in the United States maintain time-limited visitation policies, increasing the difficulty of planning visits.29 In some countries, restricting or withholding visitation is sometimes used by prison staff to punish death row prisoners, which contravenes the Bangkok Rules.30 Children on death row with t eir mothers The Bangkok Rules require prisons to ensure that children detained with their mothers are raised in an environment as close as possible to the world outside prison, with appropriate medical and educational support.31 While it is unusual, there have been cases where children are born in prison to women under sentence of death and stay for several years on death row. In India, one female death row prisoner was pregnant at arrest and gave birth in prison. Her son stayed with her until he was six, at which point prison regulations mandated that he leave the prison.32 As the prisoner had no family willing to raise him, he was placed with a foster family and has had severe problems integrating into life outside prison.33 There have been other cases in Pakistan and Uganda of children living with their mothers on death row. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. <https://worldcoalition.org/document/detailed-factsheet-on-living-conditions-on-death-row/> In INDIA, in most states, prisoners sentenced to death are incarcerated in central prisons. Due to the vast distance between the residence of the families and these prisons, families are often compelled to travel for several days each time they visit the prisoner. It considerably reduces the number of visits between the family and the detainee [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. <https://worldcoalition.org/document/detailed-factsheet-on-living-conditions-on-death-row/> Alexandra met her father, Gennady Yakovitsky, on death row in BELARUS several times before he was executed. Father and daughter saw each other through a glass window, always closely watched by guards. "We didn't talk about the case, it was forbidden. We could only talk about family things." On one of her eight visits Alexandra, then 27, complained to him about the long time it was taking to receive a new passport. "The guards said sarcastically: 'You still have a little time left'." In VIETNAM, people sentenced to death use art to send life signs to their families through the back door. Nguyen Truong Chinh received plastic figurines made and sent by his son from death row, but "Like other relatives of convicts who received them through former common law inmates employed on death row, he [Nguyen Truong Chinh] no longer receives these creative signals. And like the other families, he doesn't dare ask his son for an explanation during their closely watched 30-minute monthly meetings. ” (p11) [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. <https://worldcoalition.org/document/detailed-factsheet-2019/> p1 [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Information received from FHRI [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. <https://worldcoalition.org/document/detailed-factsheet-on-living-conditions-on-death-row/> A lawyer from UNITED STATES testifies: “His life is on my shoulders. It’s terribly stressful and burdensome. It is, for me, almost unbearable.” In Fighting for Their Lives: Inside the Experience of Capital Defense Attorney, a lawyer testifies : “You feel like you’re the only thing between your client and him getting executed” . [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. <https://worldcoalition.org/document/detailed-factsheet-on-living-conditions-on-death-row/> A Tanzanian prison officer described how he would “spend sleepless nights for a week before regaining my composure”. One US guard reported at least a dozen occasions in which a prisoner about to go to the execution chamber would stick his hand out of the slot in the door to shake his hand and say something like: “Good to know you ... Thanks for being a good officer (p12) [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. Abdorrahman Boroumand Center / <https://www.iranrights.org/fa/library/document/3544> [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. <https://worldcoalition.org/document/detailed-factsheet-2019/> p6 [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. <https://worldcoalition.org/document/detailed-factsheet-2019/> p6 [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. <https://www.amnesty.or.jp/en/news/2014/0331_4529.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. *Death-Row Prisoners in Japan Sue Over Same-Day Notice of Executions available* at <https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/news/death-row-prisoners-in-japan-sue-over-same-day-notice-of-executions> [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. <https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/news/death-row-prisoners-in-japan-sue-over-same-day-notice-of-executions> [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. Japan: Briefing to the UN Committee Against Torture, 50th Session, May 2013 available at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/asa220062013en.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. <https://deathpenaltyinfo.org/news/repeated-execution-dates-called-psychological-torture> [↑](#footnote-ref-30)