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Auszug aus:

Is the death penalty justified?

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Thema: *Pros and Cons*
Is the death penalty justified?

Bestellnummer: **47153**

Kurzvorstellung des Materials:

- Seit der Hinrichtung des Amerikaners Troy Davis ist die Diskussion über die Gerechtigkeit der Todesstrafe erneut entbrannt. Aktuelle Daten und Informationen von internationalen Menschenrechtsorganisationen schüren diese Diskussionen an.
- Diese Unterrichtshilfe liefert Material für Erörterung oder Streitgespräch im Unterricht und informiert über aktuelle und unterrichtsrelevante Themen. *Fakten* liefern sachgerechte und fundierte Informationen zum aktuellen Streitthema, *Thesen* formulieren in den Medien vertretene, unterschiedliche Standpunkte. Und die dargestellten Pro- und Contra-*Argumente* erleichtern die eigene Positionsfindung.

Übersicht über die Teile

- Facts: Background information on the current discussion about Troy Davis, international and up-to-date (2010) data on the death penalty, general facts concerning the history of the death penalty
- Theses: The different positions in the media
- Arguments: Pros and Cons
- Didactic considerations concerning the insertion into class and concrete tasks

Information zum Dokument

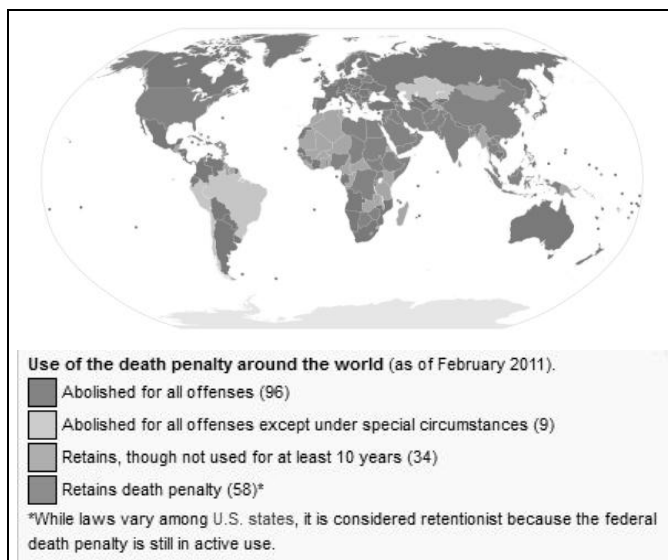
- **Ca. 5 Seiten, Größe ca. 281 KByte**

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M1 Death penalty – history and general facts

The death penalty has been documented from early on; even in the ancient world the death penalty was used as a way of punishment. Nowadays the death penalty is - at least officially - based on laws that establish the elements of a crime. Generally the death penalty is enforced after a legal procedure, in which the suspect has to be proven guilty of a violation of these elements of a crime. To a great extent the death penalty is imposed for murder. In some states, however, the death penalty is imposed for an endangerment of the body or the life of a person as well: in some states rape (Saudi Arabia, China), bank robbery (Saudi Arabia), human trafficking (China), drug dealing (Malaysia, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Taiwan, Thailand), corruption (China), adultery (Saudi Arabia, Iran, Afghanistan), homosexuality (Yemen, Sudan, Iran, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia), or the renunciation of the Islamic faith (Afghanistan, Sudan, Iran, Qatar, Yemen, Mauritania, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia) are punished by death.¹



The types and quantities of executed death penalties differ not only in official and unofficial data, but they are also differentiated by Amnesty International into reported executions and death sentences. 23 countries were known for conducting executions in 2010. Official sources mention at least 527 executions in 2010, yet the estimated number of unreported cases probably expands this estimation by several thousands, since China does not give any official number, but carries out several thousand executions every year. Amongst the 23 countries are: Iran (at least 252 executions), North Korea (at least 60 executions), Yemen (at least 53 executions), the United States of America (46), Saudi Arabia (at least 27), Bangladesh (at least 9), and China (thousands of unofficial executions).²

Moreover it can be assumed that at least 2024 death penalties have been carried out in 2010 in at least 67 countries. These 67 countries are, amongst others, Afghanistan (at least 100 death penalties), Algeria (>130), Egypt (185), India (at least 105), Iraq (at least 279), Malaysia (minimum of 114 death penalties), Pakistan (365), Saudi Arabia (>34), Sudan (>10), Tunisia (at least 22), United Arab Emirates (at least 28), United States of America (at least 110), Vietnam (at least 34), Yemen (>27), and Zambia (at least 35 executions).³

The attitude of governments and societies towards capital punishment is contested. The dignity of the human as a person is anchored in almost every constitution and the basic human rights are constituted by many international political organizations. The third article of the *Universal Declarations of Human Rights* of the *United Nations* declares, for instance, that

¹ <http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Todesstrafe>

² www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/ACT50/001/2011/en/ea1b6b25-a62a-4074-927d-ba51e88df2e9/act500012011en.pdf

³ Ibid.



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