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23. Jan 2019

Capital punishment in Europe

# Introduction

In most of Europe there is no death penalty, but a few countries, like Belarus, still have this way of punishing people. Only relatively few countries have capital punishment, but even in those that do, it is mostly uncommon and not normally applied. This map shows, that Europe doesn’t use the death penalty, except Belarus.

# Reasons why the death penalty exists

The main reason why the death penalty exists, is that it discourages people from committing crimes. The intention is that people fear death and that’s why they shouldn’t do anything illegal. As a result of the death penalty, the prisons in these countries aren’t as overcrowded with prisoners.

# Reasons against capital punishment

There has been an interest in stopping capital punishment since the end of the Second World War. A lot of countries, however, took a long time to act on this interest. One of the main reasons why the death penalty is not allowed in most European states is because it violates human rights. Since all countries in the EU must respect human rights, the death penalty is forbidden in all Member States.

# Method and last executions in Austria

The method used in Austria was mostly hanging. Following annexation by Nazi Germany, this method was replaced with the guillotine.

In 1787, capital punishment was abolished by Austria, but only eight years later it was restored again. The minimum age for execution in Austria was 20.

The last person to be executed in Austria was Johann Trnka. On 24 March 1950, Trnka was hanged for the crime of murder. In the same year, on 30 June, capital punishment was abolished once again.

# Conclusion

Based on the facts mentioned above, the death penalty isn’t something a country should retain because it really doesn’t have a significant effect on the crime rate.

Sources:

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