



MONASH
University

MONASH
LAW

ELEOS JUSTICE

WORKING TOGETHER TO END
THE DEATH PENALTY IN ASIA

CHANGE IT.
FOR GOOD.



THE CHALLENGE

Capital punishment ends lives, destroys families, and operates in discriminatory and arbitrary ways. And no reliable evidence exists to show that the death penalty deters unlawful behaviour or makes the community safer.

Amnesty International estimated that in 2019*:

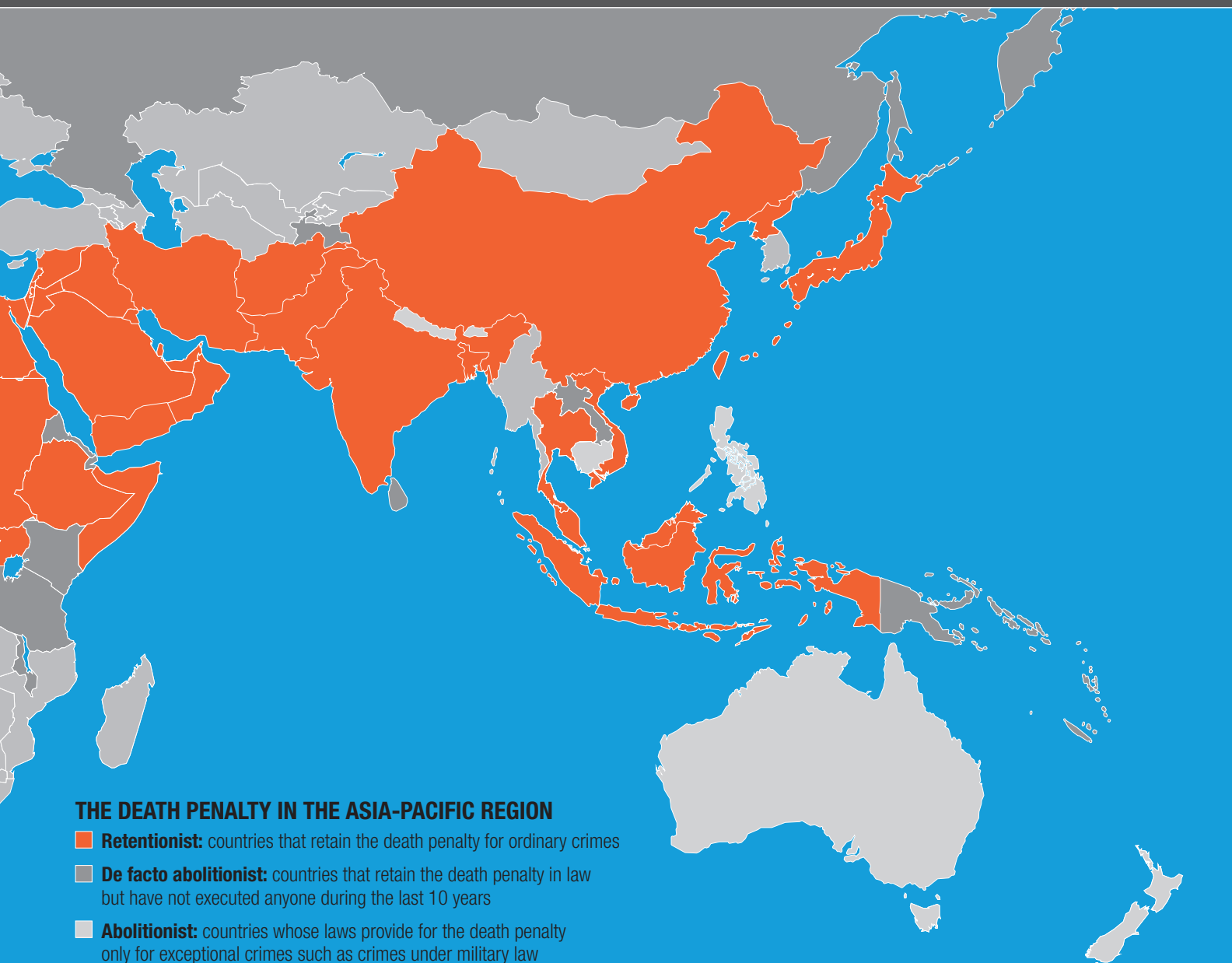
657 prisoners were executed
2307 prisoners were sentenced to death
26,004 prisoners were on death row

While the majority of death penalty research has emanated from and focuses on the US, well over 90% of global executions take place in Asia, which lags behind the global trend towards abolishing the death penalty. The Philippines, Sri Lanka and the Maldives have even taken steps to reinstate the death penalty or resume executions.

We urgently need strong empirical research to change the conversation in the countries that execute or are taking steps to resume executing soon.

The time to take action is now.

*Amnesty International, 2020



OUR VISION

At Monash University, a leader in research excellence and social change in the Asia-Pacific region, we want to be part of the solution.

In 2018, we joined forces with an Australian NGO, the Capital Punishment Justice Project, with a shared ambition to end the death penalty in Asia. Together, we formed Eleos Justice.

Over the coming five years, Eleos Justice wants to see a significant shift in the debate about the death penalty, and capital punishment policy, in at least five Asian jurisdictions. Our long-term vision is to become the region's leading institute for evidence-based research, policy, network-building, and clinical case-work devoted to restricting and abolishing the death penalty.

We will work toward our goals in three key ways:

1. Research:

Driving knowledge creation and exchange for researchers in Asia

To help change the narrative in retentionist countries and countries considering resuming executions, we will:

- conduct research on responses to drug policy, as the Asia-Pacific region has the highest proportion of countries resorting to the death penalty for drug-related offences
- understand underlying attitudes towards the death penalty, so we can begin to change opinion and identify areas where attitudinal shifts could be fostered
- collect data on the identities of those on death row, to better understand the people sentenced to death, including their socioeconomic, gender, sexual, ethnic and religious identities.

2. Advocacy:

Making a difference at the community level

To become a significant member of the abolitionist movement through collaborative leadership, we will:

- provide a safe platform for individuals and organisations to plan advocacy
- advocate evidence-based policy and promote evidence-based research for lawmakers, policymakers and opinion shapers in retentionist countries
- create multi-stakeholder networks providing valuable connections throughout the region, to share knowledge and advance the cause among policymakers and law reformers
- build a digital policy and research platform to connect and inform anti-death penalty advocates.

3. Teaching:

Training tomorrow's anti-death penalty researchers and advocates

To make real, lasting change into the future, we will use Eleos Justice's teaching arm, the Anti-Death Penalty Clinic, to:

- build a pipeline of next-generation researchers and advocates who can continue working towards ending the death penalty
- give students the opportunity to work alongside NGOs and lawyers across Asia who require assistance with casework, research, and advocacy briefs
- give students real-life, hands-on experience working under careful guidance and supervision from experienced staff.

OUR EXPERTS



Associate Professor Mai Sato

Director

Mai joined Eleos Justice as Director, and Monash Law as an Associate Professor, in August 2020.

She has over a decade of experience producing outstanding research on the death penalty across various countries. As a social scientist, her work has focused on attitudes towards the death penalty and on wrongful conviction.

Mai's book, *The Death Penalty in Japan: Will the Public Tolerate Abolition?* (Springer, 2014), and documentary capturing a social experiment exploring what the death penalty meant to ordinary Japanese citizens, influenced the decision by the Japan Federation of Bar Associations to become an abolitionist organisation in 2016.

Having grown up in a country that retains the death penalty and executes prisoners, Mai's interest goes beyond scholarly understanding into public outreach. In 2020, she created the NGO *CrimeInfo*, promoting abolition in Japan.



Sara Kowal

Manager of Partnerships and Clinic

Sara is Manager of Partnerships and Clinic for Eleos Justice, as well as Vice-President of the Capital Punishment Justice Project.

She has practised exclusively in criminal law since 2003 and has extensive experience in defending complex prosecutions.

In 2018, Sara was appointed to establish the Anti-Death Penalty Clinic at Monash, the first stage of Eleos Justice. The Clinic has been extremely popular with students and has been enthusiastically embraced by our partners.

In November 2019, Sara joined the Executive of the Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network (ADPAN). She also sits on three country-specific working groups of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

Capital Punishment Justice Project (CPJP)

The CPJP, led by Julian McMahon AC SC, has been advocating for a world without the death penalty since 2001. It partners with volunteers and organisations to provide legal and humanitarian assistance to activists, lawyers and prisoners in the US and Asia, and campaigns for legal and policy solutions that save lives.

The CPJP is closely tied with a global network of experts, advocates, NGOs, and other organisations leading the anti-death penalty campaign. It works with the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and is an elected representative to the Steering Committee of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP) and board member of the Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network (ADPAN).

MAKING IT POSSIBLE: THE POWER OF PHILANTHROPY

With your support, Eleos Justice will be able to achieve its vision to become the region's leading institute for evidence-based research, policy, network-building, and clinical case-work devoted to abolishing the death penalty.

Together, we can work towards ending the death penalty across Asia.

We can Change It. For Good.

Thanks to seed funding from the Australian Government, we've been able to launch Eleos Justice.

But to truly unlock transformational impact across the Asia-Pacific region, we need the support of like-minded philanthropic partners. Eleos Justice now invites passionate philanthropists who want to contribute to ending the death penalty to join us by supporting our three key areas of work.

1. Supporting our Research

Supporting our Research program will help us build our capacity by recruiting outstanding talent, including PhD researchers and research assistants. It will also allow us to conduct field trips for in-country research projects. Increasing the sum total of our knowledge in this way will enable us to transform Eleos Justice into a research hub that carries out world-class research and attracts scholars from the Asia-Pacific region.

2. Supporting our Advocacy

We've formed partnerships with key players in the region (e.g. ADPAN) to co-design advocacy projects. Funding our Advocacy program will allow us to ramp up our efforts to support regional lawyers and advocates with new initiatives, including in-country training programs, a Visiting Fellows Program, and an electronic research and policy platform to connect anti-death penalty advocates across the world.

3. Supporting our Teaching

Since July 2018, our Anti-Death Penalty Clinic has provided pro-bono representation and support to prisoners on death row, as well as casework and advocacy support to litigators and advocates in the region. The Clinic is extremely popular among students, who have described the program as "transformative", and a space in which they can "*make a meaningful contribution to social justice*". Funding our Teaching program will allow us to take on more students, train and hire additional Clinical Supervisors to support our students, and expand the number of local partners we serve.

"As partners, Monash and the CPJP have the expertise, regional relevance and extensive networks, alongside a passion and belief in a shared objective. With your help, we can grow this vision into a world-leading academic initiative to ensure that this important work continues in a sustainable and impactful way."

Professor Bryan Horrigan, Dean Faculty of Law



FURTHER INFORMATION

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