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Malaysia to abolish the death penalty – 14th October, 2018

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Malaysia will abolish the death penalty in a move that pleased human rights campaigners. The Law Minister said any planned executions will not be carried out. There are currently over 1,267 people on death row in Malaysia. They will be released or have their sentences reduced. The minister said: "[Prisoners] 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."

Amnesty International welcomed the decision. It said: "Malaysia [will] join the 106 countries who have turned their backs for good on the ultimate cruel, inhumane, degrading punishment." It added: "The death penalty should have been consigned to the history books long ago." It said the announcement was encouraging but more needed to be done because 23 countries still have the death penalty. There were 993 executions recorded worldwide in 2017.

Level 5

Malaysia intends to abolish the death penalty in a move that human rights campaigners have welcomed. Malaysia's Law Minister said: "The death penalty will be abolished. Full stop." He said any planned executions will not be carried out. There are currently over 1,267 people on death row in Malaysia. They will get a reprieve. Prisoners on death row will be released or have their sentences commuted. The minister said: "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. It said: "Malaysia must now join the 106 countries who have turned their backs for good on the ultimate cruel, inhumane, degrading punishment." It 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 23 countries with the death penalty. There were 993 executions recorded worldwide in 2017.

Level 6

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.