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**The New York Times**  
Monday, December 14, 2009

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## Capital Punishment

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David J. Phillip/Associated Press

Updated: Dec. 8, 2009

New Jersey and New Mexico are the only states that have abolished the death penalty since the United States Supreme Court allowed states to reinstate capital punishment in 1976. Thirty-five states have death penalty laws, although some have not executed a prisoner in decades.

From 1976 through June 3, 2009, 1,167 people were executed in the United States.

State and federal courts executed 37 inmates in 2008, a 14-year low, according to data compiled by the Death Penalty Information Center, a research and anti-death-penalty advocacy group. And courts sentenced 111 people to death that year, the lowest number of new condemnations in three decades. Executions reached a peak in 1999 when 98 people were put to death.

The lull in executions defied predictions that more prisoners would be put to death after a Supreme Court ruling (*Baze v. Rees*) in April 2008 upheld lethal injection and ended an eight-month moratorium. The court rejected the claim that officials in Kentucky administered a common sequence of three drugs in a manner that posed an unconstitutional risk that a condemned inmate would suffer acute yet undetectable pain.

On Dec. 8, 2009, Ohio prison officials executed a death row inmate, Kenneth Biros, with a one-drug intravenous lethal injection, a method never before used on a human.

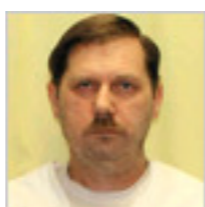
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### Highlights From the Archives

#### New Execution Method Is Used in Ohio

By IAN URBINA  
A convicted killer, Kenneth Biros, was put to death by receiving a single shot, similar to the one used to euthanize animals.  
December 9, 2009 | US | NEWS



#### Judges' Dissents for Death Row Inmates Are Rising

By JOHN SCHWARTZ  
Some judges have complained that death row prisoners face daunting barriers to appeal their convictions.  
August 14, 2009 | US | NEWS



#### Death Penalty Repeal Fails in Colorado

By KIRK JOHNSON  
An effort to repeal Colorado's death penalty law stumbled Monday in the State Senate, leaving supporters scrambling to find votes as the end of the session looms.  
May 5, 2009 | US | NEWS

#### Citing Cost, States Consider End to Death Penalty

By IAN URBINA  
Ending capital punishment is part of a trend in which states are trying to cut the costs of fighting crime.  
February 25, 2009 | US | NEWS



#### Justice Dept. Admits Error in Not Briefing Court

By LINDA GREENHOUSE  
The Justice Department said lawyers should have known about a child-rape law relevant to a Supreme Court case.  
July 3, 2008 | US | NEWS

### SIDEBAR

#### New Look at Death Sentences and Race

By ADAM LIPTAK  
A new study found that the race of the defendant plays a major role in explaining who is sentenced to death.  
April 29, 2008 | US | NEWS

#### Does Death Penalty Save Lives? A New Debate

By ADAM LIPTAK  
Studies indicating that executions are a deterrent against future murders have been the subject of sharp criticism.  
November 18, 2007 | US | NEWS



### ARTICLES ABOUT CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

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#### There Is No 'Humane' Execution

No matter how an execution is done, whether with one drug or a cocktail of three, for Ohio to put someone to death is inherently barbaric.  
December 14, 2009

MORE ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT AND: EDITORIALS, OHIO, BIROS, KENNETH

#### California: Detective Must Stand Trial in 1986 Killing

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
A Los Angeles police detective was ordered to stand trial in a decades-old killing of her ex-boyfriend's wife, but will not face the death penalty.  
December 11, 2009

MORE ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT AND: MURDERS AND ATTEMPTED MURDERS, LOS ANGELES (CALIF), RASMUSSEN, SHERRI RAE, LAZARUS, STEPHANIE

#### Ohio: Death Case Hearing Cut Short

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
A hearing on whether the state can try a second time to execute a condemned killer has ended early with a judge saying arguments can be made through court filings.  
December 10, 2009

MORE ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT AND: DECISIONS AND VERDICTS, OHIO, BROOM, ROMELL

#### Killer With Low I.Q. Executed in Texas

By JAMES C. MCKINLEY JR.  
Bobby Wayne Woods, whose I.Q. hovered around the level of a mildly retarded person's, was convicted of the killing of an 11-year-old girl in 1997.  
December 4, 2009

MORE ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT AND: PRISONS AND PRISONERS, MENTAL RETARDATION, SENTENCES (CRIMINAL), TEXAS, WOODS, BOBBY WAYNE

#### Justices Say Capital Cases Must Weigh War Trauma

By ADAM LIPTAK  
The decision makes clear that lawyers for clients facing the death penalty must show evidence of post-traumatic stress disorder from military service if it is available.  
December 1, 2009

MORE ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT AND: POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER, DECISIONS AND VERDICTS, SUPREME COURT

#### Kentucky's Highest Court Halts Executions in State

By JOHN SCHWARTZ  
The Supreme Court of Kentucky ruled that officials did not follow state law in adopting its procedures for killing inmates.  
November 26, 2009

MORE ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT AND: COURTS, DECISIONS AND VERDICTS, KENTUCKY, BESHEAR, STEVE

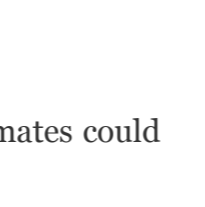
#### Line Drawn in One Case Dissolves in Another

By ADAM LIPTAK  
The effects of a decision on executing mentally retarded inmates could offer a lesson on punishment for juveniles.  
November 24, 2009

MORE ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT AND: MENTAL RETARDATION, SENTENCES (CRIMINAL), JUVENILE DELINQUENCY, SUPREME COURT

#### Iran's Death Penalty Is Seen as a Political Tactic

By MICHAEL SLACKMAN  
A flurry of executions has raised concern that the government is using judicially sanctioned killing to quell pockets of unrest around the nation.  
November 23, 2009



MORE ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT AND: POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT, DEMONSTRATIONS AND RIOTS, IRAN

#### Iraq Sentences Sunni Leader to Death

By JOHN LELAND; MOHAMMED HUSSEIN and MUHAMMED AL-OBAIDI CONTRIBUTED REPORTING.  
The sentence of a leader of the Sunni Awakening Council set off charges that the Shiite-dominated government was trying to weaken the Sunni movement.  
November 20, 2009



MORE ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT AND: MURDERS AND ATTEMPTED MURDERS, AWAKENING MOVEMENT (IRAQ), SUNNI MUSLIMS, IRAQ, AL QAEDA, BAATH PARTY, MASHHADANI, ADIL AL-

#### Ohio Finds Itself Leading the Way to a New Execution Method

By IAN URBINA  
A failed execution effort forced Ohio to rethink how people are put to death and led state officials to be the first in the nation to adopt a new approach.  
November 18, 2009

MORE ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT AND: PRISONS AND PRISONERS, OHIO

### Headlines Around the Web

- What's This?
  - LOS ANGELES TIMES**  
DECEMBER 14, 2009  
**Fewer Texas inmates sentenced to death**
  - BOSTON GLOBE**  
DECEMBER 13, 2009  
**Ugandan proposal considers death penalty for some gays**
  - PAM'S HOUSE BLEND**  
DECEMBER 12, 2009  
**White House finally weighs in and specifically condemns Uganda's 'execute gays' bill**
  - CBSNEWS.COM**  
DECEMBER 12, 2009  
**Lead Prosecutor Named in Fort Hood Case**
  - JOE. MY. GOD.**  
DECEMBER 12, 2009  
**Author Of Uganda's "Kill Gays" Bill Says Death Penalty Will Remain**
- More at Blogrunner »

**Capital Punishment Navigator**  
A list of resources from around the Web about capital punishment as selected by researchers and editors of The New York Times.

- Department of Justice statistics
- Death penalty resources ("1,000+ Links")
- Clark County (Ind.) Prosecuting Attorney
- Methods of execution overview
- Death Penalty Information Center
- Opposes capital punishment: statistics, news and research.
- ProDeathPenalty.com
- Lethal Injection Clearinghouse
- Information for opponents of lethal injections.
- Public Opinion on the Death Penalty - Gallup Polls
- Legal News on the Death Penalty from Jurist
- Capital Punishment Worldwide - Amnesty International
- Florida Death Row Fact Sheet - Florida Department of Corrections
- American Civil Liberties Union Capital Punishment Project

### OTHER COVERAGE

- "Interview With An Executioner" ABC News, Dec. 17, 2007.
- "The Death Penalty - Pro & Con" Frontline, PBS.org/WGBH
- Capital Punishment Timeline CBSNews.co.
- "The Death Penalty Reconsidered" The Washington Post, 2005.
- Witness to an Execution - Slideshows NPR, Octobe 20, 2000

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  6. Interest Rates Are Low, but Banks Balk at Refinancing
  7. Paul A. Samuelson, Economist, Dies at 94
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