

Death Penalty

Submitted by: The Advocates for Human Rights, Capital Punishment Justice Project, and the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

MECHANISM

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Summary: Despite implementing a formal moratorium on the application of the death penalty in 2005, Tajikistan has not yet committed to completely abolishing the death penalty or ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. For more than 15 years, Tajikistan has committed in the UPR to finalize the abolition of the death penalty and to ratify OP2, but it has not yet implemented these recommendations.

Tajikistan has not yet finalized the abolition of the death penalty or ratified OP2.

- Despite supporting UPR recommendations in 2021 to finalize the abolition of the death penalty and to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Tajikistan has taken no steps toward doing so.
- Some political leaders, including the Prosecutor General in 2023, have called for lawmakers to lift the moratorium on the death penalty.
- In its 2019 Concluding Observations, the Human Rights Committee recommended that Tajikistan “maintain and ensure compliance with the moratorium on executions and take concrete steps, within a clear time frame, towards the abolition of the death penalty and the accession to, or ratification of, the second Optional Protocol” to the ICCPR.
- Tajikistan has voted in favor of every UN General Assembly resolution calling for a global moratorium on the death penalty, including most recently in December 2024.

Recommendations

- Publicize a timeline for abolishing the death penalty and ratifying the Second Optional Protocol, with a view to completion no later than 2031.
- Request technical assistance from the Friends of the Second Optional Protocol to finalize the ratification process.
- Act swiftly to implement the Human Rights Committee’s 2019 recommendations concerning the death penalty.
- Take all necessary steps to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, without reservations.