



THE DEATH PENALTY PROJECT

Working to
promote and
protect the
human rights of
those facing the
death penalty

Five-year report:
2006 to 2011

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The UK Government values the significant contribution the Death Penalty Project has made in global action on the death penalty, including progress in Africa and the Caribbean. I am pleased the FCO can partner the DPP for several projects and hope to see further success for the campaigns.”

Jeremy Browne MP, Foreign & Commonwealth Minister responsible for human rights policy

For more than 20 years, we have worked to protect the human rights of those facing the death penalty. As a result of our work, the mandatory death penalty has been abolished in ten Commonwealth Caribbean countries as well as Uganda, Kenya and Malawi, and the lives of hundreds of prisoners facing execution have been saved.

This report focuses on the development of the Death Penalty Project since being granted charitable status in 2006.

“We are prepared to work wherever the death penalty is imposed – we will never turn a case down.”

Parvais Jabbar (left) and
Saul Lehrfreund (right),
executive directors of
The Death Penalty Project



WHO WE ARE

The Death Penalty Project (DPP) began in 1992 when Saul Lehrfreund joined law firm Simons Muirhead & Burton to work specifically on death row cases with the late Bernard Simons. Parvais Jabbar joined soon afterwards and the two young lawyers committed themselves to providing free legal assistance to anyone under sentence of death who needed help, wherever they were in the world. As the pair began taking on an increasing number of clients and winning landmark cases, the work gathered momentum and scores of barristers and doctors agreed to work with them on a pro bono basis.

Originally housed in a leaky loft in Marshall Street, Soho, and funded in the 1990s mainly by Simons Muirhead & Burton (SMAB) and small grants, the DPP's caseload continued to increase and the work spread from Jamaica and other parts of the Caribbean into many more countries and jurisdictions. In 1995, The Death Penalty Project won the category of "Best pro bono activity" at the UK Lawyer Awards. In 1999, Saul and Parvais were joint winners of *The Times*/Justice Young Lawyer of the Year award.

In 2006, The Death Penalty Project Limited was formed with its sister charity, The Death Penalty Project Charitable Trust. The charitable status has enabled the DPP to apply for grants from a diverse range of funders and it is now supported by the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, as well as a number of charitable foundations. Essential to their survival is the continued support of SMAB, which provides offices for the DPP and covers many of its other administrative costs. ➤

Saul Lehrfreund, Co-Executive Director

Saul specialises in constitutional and international human rights law and has represented prisoners under sentence of death before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the United Nations Human Rights Committee.

Saul has written and lectured extensively on capital punishment and human rights. In 2000 he was awarded an MBE for services to international human rights and in July 2009 he received an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Law from the University of Reading and was invited to join *The Times* Law Panel.

Parvais Jabbar, Co-Executive Director

Parvais specialises in constitutional and international human rights law in relation to the death penalty. He has represented prisoners under sentence of death before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the United Nations Human Rights Committee.

Parvais is a founder member of the Pro Bono Panel of the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office providing assistance to prisoners facing the death penalty. In 2008 he received the Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year award from the Society of Asian Lawyers.

Anthony Burton, Chair

Anthony Burton of Simons Muirhead & Burton has been involved with the Death Penalty Project since its inception.

A leading authority on domestic and international criminal law, Anthony has a wealth of high-profile court experience and sits as a Recorder of the Crown Court. He is Chairman of the Board of the Royal Court Theatre and a regular writer and broadcaster on legal affairs.

DPP Mission...

To provide free legal representation to individuals facing the death penalty

To promote the restriction of the death penalty in line with international minimum legal requirements

To uphold and develop human rights standards and the criminal law

To promote increased awareness and greater dialogue with key stakeholders on the death penalty

► WHAT WE DO

We provide free legal representation and assistance to anyone facing execution and work to protect the human rights of prisoners wherever the death penalty is still an enforceable punishment.

WHERE WE WORK

We work in all jurisdictions where the death penalty is imposed – we have never turned a case down. The majority of our work is carried out in Caribbean countries that still use the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London as their final court of appeal and in other Commonwealth countries – principally in Africa and South East Asia.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Over the past five years, we have represented death row prisoners in more than 200 cases across 23 countries. Many of these cases have resulted in prisoners having their death sentences quashed. The legal precedents created have been of seminal importance in subsequent cases relating to the death penalty.

The mandatory death penalty has now been removed in ten Caribbean countries as well as in Uganda and Malawi. In 2010, the Kenyan Court of Appeal also ruled the mandatory death penalty for murder to be unconstitutional as it violates the right to life.



This page (from top): with Keir Starmer QC and Edward Fitzgerald QC at a judicial colloquium in Uganda (2007); workshop in Beijing, China (2007); with Professor Roger Hood at a meeting with the Taiwan Alliance Against the Death Penalty in Taipei, Taiwan (2009). Opposite page: meeting of the Caribbean Legal Network at British High Commission in Bridgetown, Barbados (2010).



FUTURE CHALLENGES

Facts and figures show that all over the world capital punishment is in rapid retreat, both in law and practice. However, countries in the Commonwealth – taken as a whole – are lagging well behind in their contribution to the restriction of the death penalty in accordance with international human rights norms.

The challenge for the next five years and beyond lies in us continuing to provide the best possible legal representation to individuals facing the death penalty. We have found that mandatory death sentences have led to serious breaches of human rights. Whilst we do not campaign for abolition, in those countries that still retain the death penalty, we would like to see the mandatory death penalty abolished. The introduction of discretion would allow judges to impose an alternative sentence to death.

Sentencing guidelines and practice need to be developed to meet the legal dictum that the death penalty can only be imposed in the ‘worst of the worst’ or ‘rarest of the rare’ cases.

Over the coming years, we would like to see leadership in this area generated from within the Commonwealth as a human rights issue. We want to see a new dynamic in play, with countries showing their willingness to restrict the death penalty by reference to international human rights norms.



We believe the death penalty, however administered, will almost always violate universally accepted and absolute human rights, namely, the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.”

Saul Lehrfreund and Parvais Jabbar, executive directors, The Death Penalty Project

AFRICA

“As little as 20 years ago only two African states had abolished the death penalty, whereas today there are 15 completely abolitionist countries plus a further 21 de facto abolitionist countries in Africa.”



DPP'S KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN AFRICA

- Mandatory death penalty abolished in Uganda and Malawi
- Mandatory death penalty for murder abolished in Kenya
- More than 160 prisoners removed from death row in Uganda and five people released from prison



The DPP has been working with NGOs and local lawyers in English-speaking African countries since 2003, representing prisoners under sentence of death in countries including Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

In the past five years, as a result of legal challenges we have supported through our strong local partnerships, the mandatory death penalty has been abolished in Uganda, Malawi and Kenya; 4,000 death sentences have been commuted in Kenya and more than 160 in Uganda; and all prisoners on death row in Kenya, Uganda and Malawi are entitled to resentencing hearings.

We continue to work with local partners in assisting those prisoners whose death sentences have been quashed, compiling evidence and preparing papers for sentencing hearings in order to ensure they receive a fair trial.



Highlights

MALAWI

In April 2007, the High Court declared the mandatory death penalty in Malawi to be unconstitutional. This decision was made on the grounds that the automatic imposition of the death penalty violated the right to life and amounted to inhuman punishment, as the defendants were unable to appeal against their sentences.

This landmark judgment was in the case of Francis Kafantayeni and Others, whose appeal was co-ordinated by local lawyers and the Malawi Human Rights Commission, with assistance from the DPP.

THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

As part of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Pro Bono Panel, the DPP provides assistance to British nationals on death row overseas. In 2009, we

began working on our first case in the DRC, on behalf of Joshua French, who was sentenced to death by firing squad. All appeals to the country's military court have, at the time of writing, been dismissed.

KENYA

In August 2009, President Kibaki declared that all death sentences were to be commuted. The decision affected more than 4,000 prisoners in Kenya and is thought to be one of the largest commutations of death sentences anywhere in the world.

In a landmark judgment in July 2010, the Court of Appeal ruled that the automatic nature of the death penalty for murder violates the right to life and amounts to inhuman punishment. Hundreds of prisoners on Death Row in Kenya are set to be resentenced according to the new law.



Godfrey Mutiso (right) with his counsel, William Wameyo, at a Court of Appeal hearing in Kenya.

UGANDA

In January 2009, the Supreme Court of Uganda declared that the mandatory death penalty and excessive delay on death row were unconstitutional. This decision affected around 900 prisoners under sentence of death.

The DPP travelled to Uganda to meet the men and women under sentence of death and to assist local lawyers in drafting legal papers. Working with the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative and the law firm, Katende, Ssempebwa & Co, mitigation evidence for each prisoner was compiled in preparation for their resentencing hearings.

The case of Patrick Bwenge

Convicted of the murder of his wife and sentenced to death in 1995, Patrick Bwenge was imprisoned for 17 years before his case concluded in 2009.

The court accepted the mitigating factors, including Patrick's mental state; his remorse; that he had maintained family contacts and support while he was in prison; and that he had been incarcerated for more than 17 years. The judge ruled that the death penalty was inappropriate in all circumstances of the case and a prison sentence of 20 years was imposed, meaning that Patrick would be released by 2015.

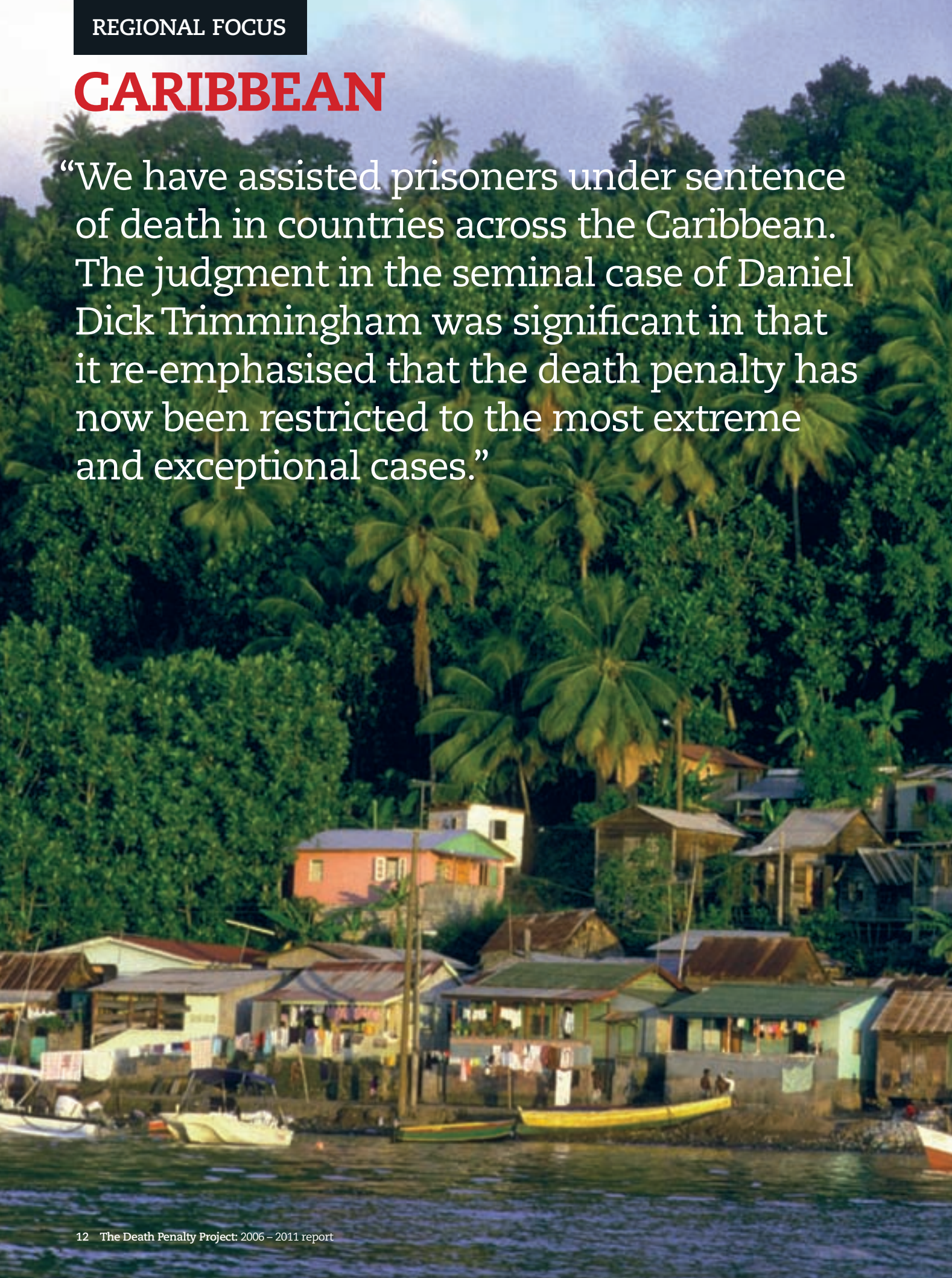


By bringing death penalty challenges in nearly 25 countries over the course of a decade, the Death Penalty Project's work has harmonised capital punishment regimes across borders, instilled international human rights standards in domestic criminal justice systems and ultimately succeeded in saving hundreds of prisoners on death row from the gallows."

Andrew Novak JD
Boston University School of Law

CARIBBEAN

“We have assisted prisoners under sentence of death in countries across the Caribbean. The judgment in the seminal case of Daniel Dick Trimmingham was significant in that it re-emphasised that the death penalty has now been restricted to the most extreme and exceptional cases.”





DPP'S KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE CARIBBEAN

- Mandatory death penalty abolished in ten countries
- 38 successful appeals and 55 death sentences quashed since 2006
- Development of sentencing guidelines restricting the imposition of the death penalty

Since our first case in the Caribbean, the DPP has worked extensively throughout the region and represented prisoners in a number of landmark cases. Over the past five years we have continued to assist prisoners under sentence of death in countries including the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, St Vincent and the Grenadines, St Christopher and Nevis, St Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago.



Highlights

BELIZE

In early 2010, the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) replaced the Privy Council as the final Court of Appeal in all civil and criminal matters for Belize. However, the DPP continues to assist prisoners on death row and other prisoners where there is evidence of a miscarriage of justice in their appeals to the CCJ.

In 2009, some five years after being convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment, Francis Eiley, Ernest Savery and Lenton Polonio were granted their freedom when their appeals were allowed by the Privy Council on the basis that there was inconclusive evidence to support their convictions. They have always pleaded their innocence throughout.

At the time of writing, there are no prisoners on death row in Belize.

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

St Vincent and the Grenadines retains the death penalty for murder and treason, although an execution has not been carried out there since 1995. In 2008, at least one death sentence was imposed; in 2009, none were imposed.

In 2009, a national referendum on constitutional reform, including provisions to replace the Privy Council with the Caribbean Court of Justice as the country's final court of appeal, was defeated.

The DPP has been working continuously on cases in St Vincent and the Grenadines since 1995; in 2009, we represented Daniel Dick Trimmingham in a case that has restricted the imposition of the death penalty across the Caribbean.

The Supreme Court building in Belize



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Trinidad and Tobago still imposes the mandatory death penalty for murder and treason, making it one of only two Commonwealth Caribbean countries (the other is Barbados) to retain the automatic death penalty.

We have provided free legal representation in many criminal appeals to the Privy Council on behalf of men and women on death row in Trinidad and Tobago. In particular, we have been successful in bringing to light individuals suffering from mental illness. Most recently, in July 2011, Rajendra Krishna was released from custody after 27 years, following our successful appeal to the Privy Council on his behalf. As a result of significant irregularities at trial which inevitably affected the safety of his conviction, the Privy Council ordered that he should be immediately released from prison.

The case of Chitrah and Malharri Dookran

In 2001, Chitrah Dookran and her mother Malharri, an elderly woman in poor health, were convicted of the 1997 murder of Chitrah's sister, Chanardai. They faced Trinidad and Tobago's mandatory death sentence. In 2007, ten years after Chanardai's death, the Privy Council held that without Chitrah's alleged confession, which was found to be inadmissible by the Trinidadian Court of Appeal, there was not enough evidence to sustain her conviction. The Privy Council also had questions about Malharri's statement to the police which she said was coerced. With questionable confessions and shaky witness testimony, the state's only evidence, the Privy Council held that there was a "lurking doubt" in Malharri's case and quashed her conviction as well. Both women were freed from death row.



Thanks for your hard work in proving my innocence. I'm trying to make the most of life... and am working on publishing a book. I went to a school the other day to tell them the importance of reading. Thanks, guys."

Francis 'Chino' Eiley

Former prisoner convicted of murder, Belize

ASIA

“In the past five years we have taken some key initial steps in Asia, not least teaming up with others in a high profile project in China. The challenge is now to build on this initial momentum and help ensure the application of the death penalty is restricted across Asia, in line with recognised international standards.”



The background of the page is a photograph. In the foreground, a woman with long dark hair, wearing a yellow patterned shirt and jeans, is looking towards the camera. She is holding a red plastic basket. In the background, there is a blurred figure of a person in a black shirt, and a city skyline at night with illuminated buildings.

DPP'S KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN ASIA

- Successful completion of a three-year project seeking to reform the death penalty in China
- Launch of a strategy to influence key opinion-formers in countries including Japan and Taiwan
- Legal assistance in drug-related death penalty cases in Singapore and Malaysia
- Successful challenge to the imposition of mandatory life sentences in Mauritius

The DPP has been working in various capacities across Asia over the past five years. This has included extensive dialogue with governments and judges on the use of the death penalty, as well as providing legal assistance and support to lawyers and non-governmental organisations. We have been involved particularly in cases resulting from the strict laws against drug trafficking in many Asian countries.



By carrying its work to the East, particularly to China, Taiwan and most recently to Singapore and Japan, the DPP has further enhanced its high reputation as an effective advocate for the universal spread of human rights in countries that still maintain the death penalty.”

**Professor Roger Hood CBE, Emeritus Fellow,
All Souls College, Oxford**

Highlights

TAIWAN

We have worked with the Taiwan Alliance Against the Death Penalty and leading constitutional lawyers on issues relating to the application of the death penalty. In particular, we have looked at the safety of convictions where mental health issues arise and the effect of Taiwan's endorsement of the ICCPR. We have also

held seminars on the application of the death penalty and sentencing principles in capital cases. We understand that judges are considering steps that will restrict the implementation of the death penalty in future cases.

MAURITIUS

In Mauritius we successfully challenged the constitutionality of

a mandatory sentence of penal servitude for life before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, Mauritius' highest court. The Privy Council found that the absence of any provision allowing for the possibility of release was manifestly disproportionate and arbitrary. In this particular case, the appellant had been subjected to an unconstitutional

sentence of death, kept on death row in breach of the Constitution for nearly ten years and was then subjected to an unconstitutional sentence of penal servitude. His appeal was allowed.

MALAYSIA

We are assisting lawyers in Malaysia who seek to challenge the continued application of the mandatory death penalty.



The DPP's Parvais Jabbar (left) with Edward Fitzgerald QC (second left), M. Ravi and John Jones at court in Singapore in 2010

SINGAPORE

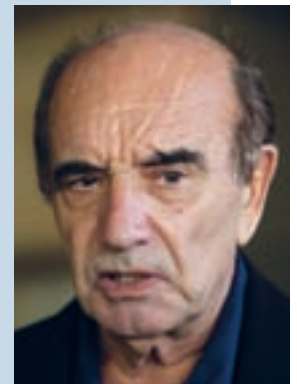
In the last few years we have assisted M. Ravi, attorney at law in Singapore, in bringing a series of constitutional challenges on behalf of Yong Vui Kong, a young Malaysian national convicted of drug trafficking and sentenced to death. He was 19 years old at the time he was charged and had no previous convictions.

In May 2010, the Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal which challenged the constitutionality of the mandatory death penalty for drugs. A further appeal was mounted, challenging the exercise of clemency and the prerogative of mercy by the President in death penalty cases. In a judgment delivered on 4 April 2011, the Court of Appeal, whilst accepting that rules of natural justice do apply to the actions of the Executive when exercising clemency, held that no breach occurred in Vui Kong's case. These decisions have failed to follow the international trend of recent cases in other parts of the world regarding the same constitutional protections.

At the time of writing, a petition to the President seeking clemency has been submitted on behalf of Vui Kong in order to preserve his life. During the currency of the litigation, there has been an unofficial stay of executions pending the determination of these important constitutional issues. This is reflected in the Singapore Prison Service Annual Report for 2010 which reveals that no executions have been carried out last year in Singapore.

The case of Alan Shadrake

In November 2010, Alan Shadrake, a British investigative journalist, was convicted by the High Court of Singapore of contempt of court and sentenced to eight weeks in jail following allegations he made in his book, *Once a Jolly Hangman: Singapore in the Dock, about the death penalty in Singapore*. The book includes interviews with the former boss at Singapore's Changi Prison, who he reports executed about 1,000 prisoners between 1959 and 2006.



The DPP has assisted M. Ravi in this case at both trial and appeal. Mr Shadrake was convicted of scandalising the judiciary and in May 2011, his appeal was dismissed. He served five weeks in a Singapore jail. That Singapore will punish the author of a book criticising the criminal justice system by preventing fair comment of the judiciary on sensitive subjects such as the death penalty is of concern. Even more worrying is that Singapore has failed to deal with the disturbing issues raised in Mr Shadrake's book, namely the possible execution of the innocent and discrimination in the use of the death penalty.



“Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right is protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life.” International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

We continue to work on strategies to ensure that any application of the death penalty complies with international human rights law. Much of this work takes place at international level – in individual and group applications to international human rights tribunals, including the United Nations Human Rights Committee and regional human rights bodies.



The DPP's Saul Lehrfreund (left) and Parvais Jabbar appear before the International Commission against the Death Penalty in Madrid in June 2011

‘Cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment’

THE CASE OF BOYCE ET AL

In 2007, we represented four prisoners under sentence of death in Barbados before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACHR) in Costa Rica.

Lennox Boyce, Jeffrey Joseph, Fredrick Benjamin Atkins and Michael Huggins were convicted of murder and sentenced to death by the Supreme Court of Barbados. Mr Atkins died in prison in 2005.

The IACHR found that the mandatory death sentence imposed on all those convicted of murder in Barbados violates the right to life, as it is arbitrary and does not limit the death sentence to the most serious crimes. The Court also ruled that the prison conditions endured by the applicants constituted cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment in violation of the American Convention on Human Rights.

In February 2009, the Barbados Government confirmed its intention to comply with the Order of the Court in full. The death sentences of Lennox Boyce, Jeffrey Joseph and Michael Huggins were all commuted. Barbados has also undertaken to abolish the mandatory aspect of the death penalty.

‘Right to a fair trial violated’

THE CASE OF TYRONE DACOSTA CADOGAN

Since the ruling in the Boyce et al case (see above), we have continued to advise prisoners facing the death penalty in Barbados. In collaboration with lawyers from Barbados and Trinidad, we represented Tyrone DaCosta Cadogan before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

The IACHR granted provisional measures to protect Mr Cadogan from execution while his case was pending. The DPP argued that Mr Cadogan's right to a fair trial had been violated by the failure of the state to provide him with a psychiatric assessment. We

instructed Dr Timothy Green, a clinical psychologist, to travel to Barbados and assess Mr Cadogan and prepare a detailed psychology report. Dr Green's report was submitted as evidence that Cadogan is mentally impaired; expert evidence was also provided by Edward Fitzgerald QC and Professor Nigel Eastman.

In September 2009, the Court again ruled that the mandatory death penalty for murder was a violation of the American Convention of Human Rights and went on to find that psychiatric evidence must always be obtained in capital cases. The Court therefore ordered that the death sentence imposed upon Mr Cadogan be quashed and ordered a hearing for his re-sentencing.



This case sends a clear message to states which retain the mandatory death sentence that it is a cruel punishment which violates the universal prohibition against the arbitrary deprivation of life. In fashioning an appropriate remedy, the Court has gone further than it has ever done before.”

Douglas Mendes SC
Attorney at Law, Trinidad and Tobago

“Strengthening communication... to work together to protect the human rights of those facing the death penalty.”

As well as representing individuals at risk of execution, the DPP has an ongoing commitment to empower local lawyers through training, seminars and workshops. By maintaining dialogue with judiciaries, NGOs and governments, we aim to strengthen communication between organisations and ultimately enable them to work effectively together to protect human rights.

Seminars, lectures and events

MOVING THE DEBATE FORWARD ON THE DEATH PENALTY IN CHINA (BEIJING 2007; GUANGZHOU 2009)

Working with the Great Britain China Centre, we held three workshops focusing on developments towards global abolition of the death penalty, international human rights standards and sentencing in death penalty cases. The workshops were attended by judges of the Supreme People's Court in Beijing and by provincial judges who have the discretion to impose the death penalty. These workshops have contributed to the recent judicial reforms, which have had a direct impact on the reduction in the use of the death penalty in China.

JUDICIAL COLLOQUIUMS IN UGANDA, 2007 AND 2010

In partnership with the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative, we held a conference attended by members of the judiciary, including the Chief Justice of Uganda and the President of the Court of Appeal. In the same month, our seminar for prosecution



Professor Roger Hood delivers the DPP's first annual lecture at the Inner Temple, London.

and defence lawyers in Kampala was attended by almost 150 lawyers. Both meetings focused on resentencing issues, and copies of the DPP's publication, *A Guide to Sentencing in Capital Cases* by Edward Fitzgerald QC and Keir Starmer QC were distributed.

REGIONAL STRATEGY MEETING IN BARBADOS, 2010

In September 2010, the DPP's executive directors led a roundtable discussion on the status of the death penalty in the Caribbean. Participants included legal experts from Trinidad & Tobago, Barbados, Guyana, Grenada, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Jamaica.

TOWARDS GLOBAL ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY: A LECTURE BY ROGER HOOD, 2010

The DPP's first Annual Lecture at London's Inner Temple was delivered by Professor Roger Hood in January 2010. In this he outlined the results of a global survey on the status of the death penalty and concluded that the death penalty would be abolished worldwide 'in the foreseeable future'.

CRIME, PUNISHMENT AND REHABILITATION: A LECTURE BY WILBERT RIDEAU, 2011

In January 2011, the DPP's Annual Lecture was delivered by Wilbert Rideau, an ex-death row prisoner. Jailed for 44 years in the US's most

Former death row prisoner Wilbert Rideau spoke at the DPP's second annual lecture at Inner Temple, London, in 2011.



Publications and research

The Death Penalty Project has developed and commissioned studies and research into all aspects of the death penalty. Publications in the past five years include:

A Rare and Arbitrary Fate (2006)
Professor Roger Hood and Dr Florence Seemungal

A Guide to Sentencing in Capital Cases (2007)
Edward Fitzgerald QC and Keir Starmer QC

A Penalty Without Legitimacy (2009)
Professor Roger Hood and Dr Florence Seemungal

Public Opinion Survey on the Mandatory Death Penalty in Trinidad (2011)
Professor Roger Hood and Dr Florence Seemungal

Report on Prison Conditions in Jamaica (2011)
James Robottom

Internship programmes

The Death Penalty Project offers a number of formal internship programmes for students and graduates who are interested in working in the human rights legal sector, and in particular with issues concerning the use of the death penalty within the criminal justice system. Every year we receive students from Yale Law School, the Irish Centre for Human Rights at the National University of Ireland, Galway, and the University of Reading.

violent prison, he was later described by *Life* magazine as 'the most rehabilitated prisoner in America'.

FORENSIC TRAINING SEMINAR FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, ST KITTS, 2011

In July 2011, working with Dr Sharon Halliday, a psychiatrist from St Kitts, we held our first large-scale training seminar for mental health professionals in the Caribbean. The expert trainers included forensic psychiatrist Professor Nigel Eastman and clinical psychologist Dr Timothy Green. Over 70 mental health professionals from the Caribbean attended the event (pictured below).



The lasting legacy of the Death Penalty Project team can be seen in the training they have provided for death penalty litigators in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean, and on the educational programmes they have organised and participated in throughout the world. They are a true inspiration to death penalty opponents and human rights activists worldwide."

**Professor Michael L Radelet PhD,
University of Colorado,
USA**

Global perspectives on the work of the Death Penalty Project...



The story of how the work of the Death Penalty Project supporting litigation in constitutional motions and human rights applications has transformed the death penalty from a mandatory to a discretionary sentence for murder is a remarkable one. It's a tribute to the project and its workers that the numbers actually sentenced to death throughout the English speaking Caribbean and many countries in Africa has significantly reduced."

MR JUSTICE NICHOLAS BLAKE
UK High Court,
Queen's Bench Division



Having been associated with the Death Penalty Project for a decade – as a former member of its Board of Trustees, as a collaborator at conferences, on missions and as a researcher in Trinidad – I have come to appreciate greatly how broad and decisive the influence of the DPP has been in restricting the scope and infliction of capital punishment in the Caribbean and Anglophone Africa."

PROFESSOR ROGER HOOD CBE,
QC, DCL, FBA
Emeritus Fellow
All Souls College, Oxford



I have known Saul and Parvais for well over 15 years now and it has been wonderful to see the work they and their team have carried out in that time. There is obviously so much more still to be done to challenge politicians across the world who continue to support the execution of their citizens, but for now it is right to celebrate the role the Death Penalty Project has played in challenging dozens of miscarriages of justice. They have shown how much can be achieved when a small team tackles entrenched prejudices by combining astute legal brains with compassion and determination."

FELIX DENNIS
Publisher, entrepreneur and poet



I have now gained my freedom once again after 27 years of incarceration. I wish to express my most sincere and heartfelt gratitude for the wonderful and splendid job that you and your colleagues have done for me in my time of need and despair.”

RAJENDRA KRISHNA

Former death row prisoner, Trinidad and Tobago



In my year as an intern with the Death Penalty Project, I was given an insight into the reality of life and death for condemned prisoners in the 21st Century. While this has often been shocking to confront, I have also been inspired by seeing at first-hand how the law can be used to overturn unfair and out-dated practices. I return to my university course with fresh determination to put into practice what I have learned while working with the DPP team.”

KATIE JOYCE

Student, BA with human rights
National University of Ireland,
Galway



I believe that the successes of the Death Penalty Project in recent years are unmatched by any other organisation in the world of its size that provides legal representation to indigent death row inmates. I can think of no pair of death penalty litigators in the world who have been as effective as Parvais Jabbar and Saul Lehrfreund. Even more amazingly, they do it on a shoestring budget.”

PROFESSOR MICHAEL L.

RADELET, PhD

University of Colorado



The impact of the work of the DPP in Kenya and Commonwealth Africa is immense, because over the last five years the highest courts in Uganda, Malawi and Kenya have handed down decisions on mandatory death sentences which can all be directly linked to the assistance rendered by DPP.”

TIMOTHY BRYANT

Attorney, Kenya

Our trustees, directors and principal funders

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We would like to give special thanks to Nicola Goldfinch-Palmer and all the staff at the Death Penalty Project. We would also like to extend our thanks and appreciation to all the barristers, medical experts, academics and others who have helped us in the past five years. Their selfless commitment, in providing both time and expertise for free, has ensured that we have achieved far more than we could ever have done otherwise. Finally, we would like to acknowledge the individuals and smaller charitable foundations for their generous financial assistance. We are indebted to so many for their support and we look forward to it continuing for the next five years and beyond.

Saul Lehrfreund, Parvais Jabbar
London, 2011

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Everyone must be afforded due process rights, especially those facing the ultimate penalty: execution. The Death Penalty Project has made extraordinary progress in protecting this most fundamental right in a range of jurisdictions in the Caribbean and Africa, in some of the most distressing contexts of incarceration anywhere. This small organisation has a disproportionately large impact on individuals and the criminal justice system.”

Adrian Arena

Director of International Human Rights,
OAK Foundation



The Death Penalty Project is housed and supported by
the law firm Simons Muirhead & Burton.

8/9 Frith Street, Soho, London, W1D 3JB, UK

Telephone: (+44)203 206 2748

Fax: (+44)203 206 2848

Email: info@deathpenaltyproject.org

www.deathpenaltyproject.org