

Deterrent Effect of Death Penalty in Singapore

The Government has the responsibility to ensure the safety and security of Singaporeans, while maintaining a fair and just criminal justice system. The rights of offenders, victims and Singaporeans need to be considered.

The approach we have taken has resulted in Singapore being one of the safest places in the world to live.

Key Considerations when Applying the Death Penalty to an Offence

1

Seriousness of Offence

2

Frequency of Offence

3

Need for Deterrence

Examples of Offences where Death Penalty is Imposed Include:



Intentional Murder



Gang Robbery with Murder



Terrorist Bombing



Use of Firearms



Kidnapping



*Trafficking of Significant Quantities of Drugs

(*The threshold amount of 15g of pure heroin is equivalent to 1,250 straws of heroin and feeds 180 abusers for a week.)

Reduction in Serious Crime Rate Since Introduction of Death Penalty



Opium Trafficking

66% reduction in net weight of opium trafficking within 4 years.



Cannabis Trafficking

15-19% reduction in the probability that traffickers would choose to traffic above the capital sentence threshold in cannabis trafficking.



Firearms Robbery

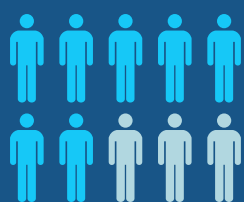
39% drop in firearm offences in 1974 (from 174 cases in 1973). None in past 13 years.



Kidnapping

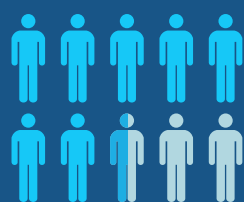
Generally less than 2 cases of kidnapping yearly from 1961 to date.

Majority Agree that Death Penalty is More Effective as a Deterrent than Life Imprisonment



70%

Singaporeans**



76%

Non-Singaporeans**

agreed that the death penalty is more effective than life imprisonment as a deterrent for serious crimes (e.g. murder, firearms and drug trafficking).

(**Based on 2019 survey by the Institute of Policy Studies conducted on residents; and a 2018 study conducted on non-Singaporeans.)

