

# *Capital Punishment Update*

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## Australian News

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### Australian charged with capital offence in Kuwait: Tallaal Adrey

**25 May 2005:** Sydney businessman, Mr Tallal Adrey, has been charged in Kuwait with being a member of a terrorist organisation (the Peninsula Lions). Prosecutors are seeking the death sentence. Mr Adrey claims to have been tortured in police custody. Australian diplomats will meet with Mr Adrey on Saturday, 28 May 2005.

**source:** 'Terror suspect "had nails pulled out"', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 25 May 2005, <<http://smh.com.au/news/National/Terror-suspect-had-nails-pulled-out/2005/05/25/1116950749364.html>>

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### AFP aided Vietnamese police in capital offence

An Australian lawyer, who formerly practiced in Vietnam, claims that he had a conversation with an AFP liaison officer in Ho Chi Minh City who confirmed that information given to Vietnamese police by the Australian Federal Police led to the arrest in Vietnam of an Australian who faced the death penalty. The accused man has since escaped Vietnam and returned to Australia (after initially being denied travel documents by Australian authorities).

**source:** The Law Report, 'Australians serving time in Vietnamese prisons', 24 May 2005, <<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/talks/8.30/lawrpt/stories/s1374457.htm>>

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### Case of Zhang Long

**23 May 2005:** Australia has sought the extradition of Mr Zhang Long from China to face trial for the murder of his girlfriend in Canberra last year. However, Australia does not have an extradition treaty with China because China does not extradite its nationals. Chinese officials are proposing to prosecute Mr Long in China, where he faces the death penalty. If that happens, Australia has stated that it will not fully co-operate with Chinese officials. ACT Chief Minister Stanhope said, "In the absence of a written assurance that he wouldn't face the death penalty, I have grave reservations about allowing the ACT resources and the police to be involved in the case".

**source:** Shane Green, 'Legal stand-off over student's death', *The Age*, 23 May 2005, 5.

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## Overseas News

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### Indonesia: Bali Nine will face the death penalty

**28 April 2005:** Indonesian police have confirmed that they will ask prosecutors to seek the death penalty for all nine Australians arrested in Bali for smuggling heroin. The Bali Nine remain in police custody without charge.

**source:** Matthew Moore, "Bali suspects all facing death", *The Age*, 28 April 2005, 1.

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### Japan: call for moratorium on executions

**28 May 2005:** In Japan, where there are currently 72 people on death row, the Japanese Bar Association has called on the Diet to place a moratorium on executions while it debates whether Japan should retain the death penalty.

**source:** Keiji Hirano, "Japan's bar association group compiles bill to suspend executions", *Kyodo News*, 28 May 2005.

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### Iraq: death penalty re-introduced

**26 May 2005:** The death penalty has been re-introduced in Iraq and three men have been sentenced to death for murder, rape and kidnapping.

**source:** Jonathon Finer, "Return of death penalty", *Washington Post*, 26 May 2005.

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### Philippines: President Arroyo considers abolition of death penalty

**18 May 2005:** President Gloria Arroyo has stated that she would consider supporting the repeal of the death penalty if Congress votes to abolish it.

**source:** 'Move to repeal death penalty revived', *Manila Standard*, 18 May 2005.

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### Russia: calls to abolish death penalty

**28 May 2005:** State Duma legislative committee chief Pavel Krasheninnikov has called on the lower chamber of the Russian Parliament to adopt a bill that will confirm the abolition of the death penalty in Russia. There are already several moratoriums on executions across Russia.

**source:** "Deputy seeks law on Russia's rejection of death penalty", *Interfax News*, 28 May 2005.

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To read about steps to ensure that the death penalty remains abolished in Australia and to read about the draft Death Penalty Abolition Amendment Bill 2005 (Cth), visit:

[http://www.nswccl.org.au/issues/death\\_penalty/2op.php](http://www.nswccl.org.au/issues/death_penalty/2op.php)