

2011. About 18,750 people are on a death row, 676 executed worldwide in 2011. And these numbers don't include China. The People's Republic of China still continues to execute more people than the rest of the world put together. Still progress was made. In Japan for the first time in 19 years no executions were recorded. A decrease in the use of death penalty was also recorded in Tunisia, the USA, Lebanon, and the Palestinian Authority.

Belarus is known to be the only European country that still carries out executions. Death penalty here is the punishment for about 12 violations: among them terrorism, murder of a policeman, murder of a foreigner for the purpose of unleashing war, etc. In 2005, 2 people were executed, in 2006 – 9, and in 2011 – 2. It was done by a firing squad.

I have asked 205 students in an attempt to find out what Belarusian students think of the matter. The question was whether you support the death penalty, or stand against it. The percentage of both answers are almost equal, which means that Belarusian society still is not ready to overcome the principles the USSR created in the last century. Unless people find the way to break the old prejudices, death penalty will exist in our country.

As for me, I oppose the death penalty in all cases without exception: regardless of the nature of the crime, the characteristics of the offender, or the methods of execution.

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THE CAUSES AND ORIGINS OF TERRORISM

Terrorism isn't just brutal, unthinking violence. Experts agree that there is almost always a strategy behind terrorist actions. Whether it takes the form of bombings, shootings, hijackings, or assassinations, terrorism is neither random, spontaneous, nor blind: it is a deliberate use of violence against civilians for political or religious ends.

Terrorism is premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience.

The causes of terrorism are divided into 3 groups: socio-economic, political, religious.

One of the devastating acts of terrorism was the September 11 2001 terrorist act, which occurred in the USA. 19 terrorists from the Islamist militant group al-Qaeda hijacked four passenger jets. The hijackers intentionally crashed two planes into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City; into Pentagon; and near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Suspicion quickly fell on al-Qaeda, and in 2004, the group's leader Osama bin Laden, who had initially denied involvement, claimed responsibility for the attacks. Al-Qaeda and bin Laden cited U.S. support of Israel, the presence of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia, and sanctions against Iraq as motives for the attacks.

There were a total of 2,996 deaths from the attacks, including the 19 hijackers and 2,977 victims.

The tragedy for Belarus was the terrorist act at Oktyabrskaya metro station. At 17.54, a strong explosion occurred there. As a result of the terrorist act, 13 people died, with over 200 injured. The terrorists used an explosive device with chopped reinforcement, nails and metal balls with a diameter of about 1.5 cm, with a capacity of TNT equivalent of about 5 kg.

The world community takes steps to overcome the problem of terrorism. The United Nations has long been involved in the fight against international terrorism. Proof of the determination of the international community to eliminate this threat is the fact that the Organization and its agencies have developed a number of international legal instruments that allow the international community to oppose terrorism and bring terrorists to justice. Since 1963, the UN has developed 13 international conventions.

On September 8, 2006, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a global counter-terrorism strategy. This strategy allegedly – in the form of a resolution

and the annexed Action Plan – is a unique tool to enhance the fight against terrorism at national, regional and international levels.

The Republic of Belarus considers international terrorism as a serious threat to international security and supports efforts of the international community to create the necessary conditions for eradication of terrorism. In the Republic of Belarus a legal framework regulating activities in fighting terrorism was created; appropriate preventive, operating, organizational and other measures are being developed and implemented; the processes in the field of illegal migration are being analyzed; control over the stay of foreign citizens and stateless persons in the territory of Belarus is provided.

The Republic of Belarus exercises international cooperation with foreign countries on the basis of bilateral treaties of intergovernmental and interdepartmental character, on the grounds of which the cooperation between Belarusian law enforcement agencies and law enforcement agencies of foreign states is carried out.

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SOCIAL STRATIFICATION: WHO GETS WHAT AND WHY?

Social stratification is the process through which the products of social life – including wealth, power, and prestige – are distributed unequally. One of the most important concepts in the study of stratification is social class. As of Karl Marx, class position depends on a person's relationship to the means of production. Capitalists own or control the means of production, while workers sell their labour power to capitalists. To Weber, class position depends on the outcomes of stratification; in other words, on how much power, prestige, or wealth a person has.

Conflict theorists argue that inequality benefits only those who are in dominant positions and that culture often serves the interests of the elite and constitutes an ideology that supports the status quo. From an interactionist perspective, class differences are created and perpetuated through social interaction, how people perceive, interpret, appear, and act in relation to one another.