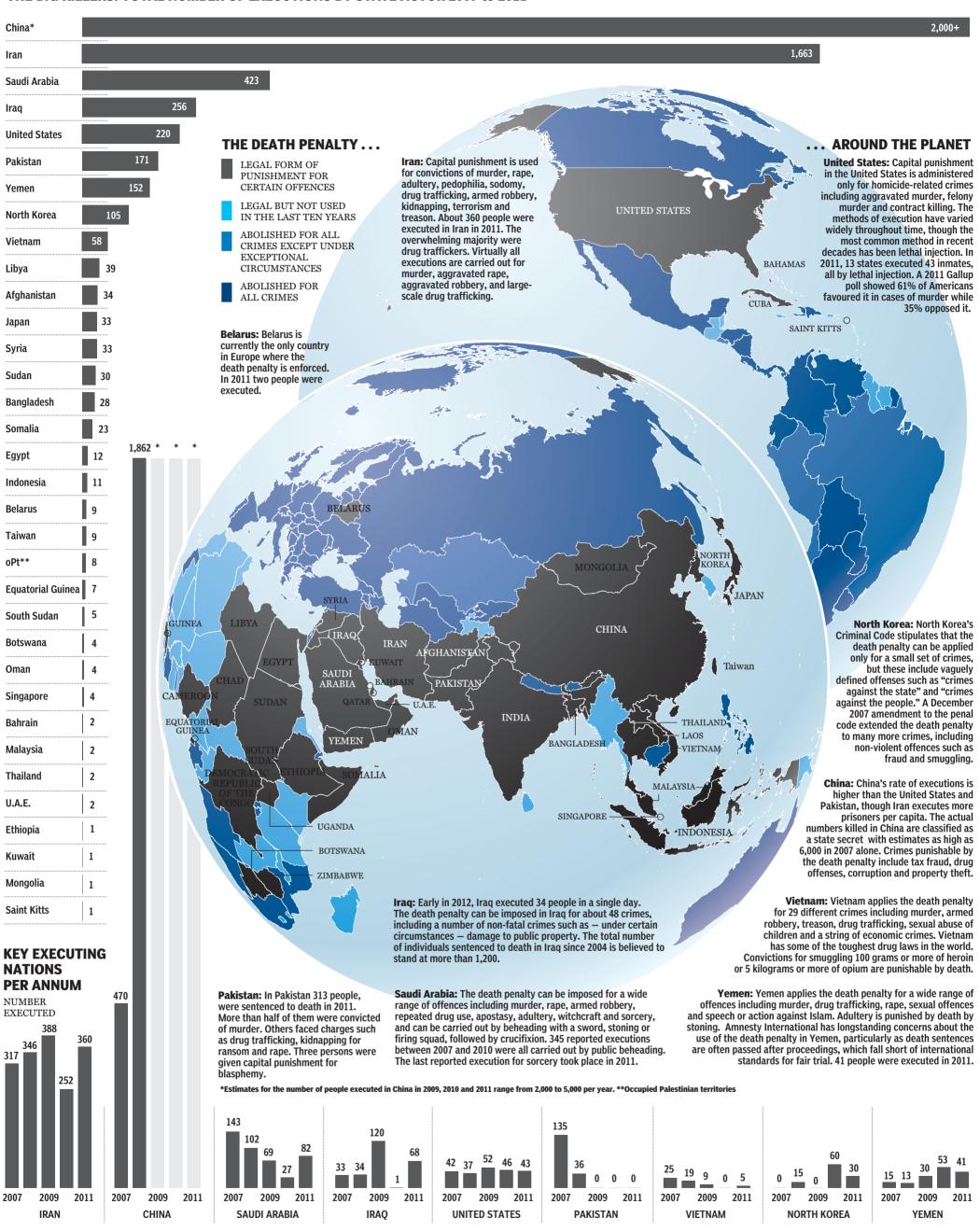
# THE DEATH PENALTY

Death by hanging was the penalty for murder in Canada between 1892 and 1961. In 1966, the government passed a bill that limited capital punishment to the killing of on-duty police officers and prison guards. In 1976, the House of Commons abolished capital punishment and replaced it with a mandatory life sentence of 25 years for those convicted of first-degree murder. Here is how the rest of the planet punishes capital crimes.

#### THE BIG KILLERS: TOTAL NUMBER OF EXECUTIONS BY STATE ACTOR 2007 to 2011



### **COUNTRIES ABOLISHING** THE DEATH PENALTY

### NUMBER STILL EXECUTING NUMBER ABOLISHED 100 2000 2010

1991

## THE STATE OF CAPITAL PUNISI

With the decision this week by the Governor to repeal the death penalty, Connecticut became the fifth state in recent years to abandon capital punishment. It constitutes a trend of sorts, given that a ballot motion in California passed this week that would ask voters to consider condemning the death penalty there as well.

If that passes, in the November vote, 700 Californians on death row would see their sentences commuted to life in prison. The majority of the

death row inmates would be integrated with the general prison population, given jobs, and their earnings earmarked for the victims.

Thirteen prisoners have been executed by the State of California over the past 23 years. A recent study concluded that the cumulative cost to the public purse of these executions was \$4-billion. The same study found that shifting to a life sentence model, without possibility of parole, would save taxpayers \$183-million a

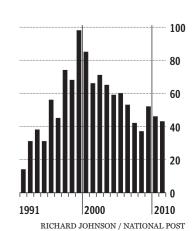
The repeal in Connecticut applies only to future sentences, and the 11 men on its death row still face execution.

In the meantime, Albertan Ronald Smith, on death row in Montana for murdered two young men in 1982, has exhausted his legal appeals to avoid execution but is seeking executive clemency — and a new sentence of life imprisonment — at a Montana parole board hearing to be held on Wednesday.

National Post and news services

### **UNITED STATES EXECUTIONS 1991-2011**

**EXECUTIONS PER YEAR** 



SOURCE: DUI HUA FOUNDATION, HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH, HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN AND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL