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## Capital Punishment

### Introduction

This essay has the goal to examine all the points of view about capital punishment, to find all favors and pros as for this issue. There were found some arguments against death penalty and points of views of those who are in favor for such sentences were also taken into consideration. It is hard to see all the details of each case when murderers are sentenced to death, so it is evident that it is necessary to examine each case before making a final decision.

### *Implication of Capital Punishment*

Capital punishment is an execution of people, who have been found guilty of such horrible crime like murder. It is well known fact that first execution of this kind took place in Virginia in 1622. It should be stressed that it is first known fact about death penalty in the territory of the USA. From the point of view of law, Constitution of the USA, capital punishment can be employed because it is possible to read the law of state government and the law of US Supreme Court differently. Some investigators try to understand why death penalty is still applied to in some states of the USA, while it is abolished in European countries. It is stated that during the early years of history of the USA colonists often applied to this punishment and since that time it became one of the serious deterrents for all people. Capital punishment was used rather often during last century and at the same time there were more and more people who contested the legality of death penalty. From the point of view of these people some of those who were sentenced to death deserved mercy because of such reasons as mental illness and lack of direct proofs of guilt of such diseases. There was also a

big problem of witnesses, sometimes people misinterpreted what they saw and felt, sometimes being under emotions, they made mistake when they were talking about the guilt of the defendant. Taking into consideration all these issues, opponents of capital punishment began debate as for the legality of such sentences. One more very important argument for discovering legality of death penalty appeared after the case of William Fruman in 1972. This Afro American was mentally sick and besides he was black. There appeared race problem connected with dilemma of capital punishment. It is hard to say that there is racial discrimination in sentencing to death penalty, but more and more people use this fact to oppose existence of such punishments in the USA.

#### *My Own Arguments against Capital Punishment*

I am strictly against capital punishment and there are some very important reasons for such my decision. I agree with those who opposed the existence of such sentence in the USA court. First of all nobody is secured from the mistake. If innocent is killed because of sentence of the court, nothing can be corrected and nobody can come back. One more issue, from the point of view of any religion nobody can take away life of a person; it is a great sin to kill someone even if he/she is suspected of murder. The most important fact which can be used against the capital punishment is that this kind of punishment is not strict enough for all the murderers. Namely, not strict enough for people who kill someone just for fun or because they think that they are special and not like everyone else. From this point of view to sentence defendant to death will be easier for killer then to spend all his/her life in jail, suffer from loneness, think about crime and become aware of guilt which can not be updated.

There is one more reason why death penalty does not work; there is a well known statement that any crime should be punished and this punishment should be unavoidable. Sometimes capital punishment does not serve as deterrent of crime. Of course there should live an assurance that any killing is wrong, but it is an issue of upbringing. So, from my point

of view it is impossible and unacceptable to take someone's life; even if this person killed someone in any case it will be his burden and not anybody else's. The last and maybe not the less important point for abolishing capital punishment is the economical issue of the problem which should be taken into consideration. To kill the convict costs a lot of money and if to refuse from such practice it will be possible to spend more money for some very important social programs.

#### *Opposite Point of View on Capital Punishment*

Like everywhere there is another side of the coin, as for the legality of death penalty. Those people who lose their close ones because of murder appeal for retribution and death of defendant for them can be the only right punishment. I believe that nobody can blame them for such wishes. People suffer from their loss and they think that only the death can make them feel better, but it is a big mistake. It is possible to find many witnesses when retribution like this can not give relief. This problem is very complicated from the point of view of moral statements and also some religious beliefs.

One person kills another and first of all it is very important to see the reason of his/her crime, nobody will oppose that it is a crime. It is impossible to bring a person back to life, but it is necessary to prevent the same issues in the life of society. People who support death penalty are sure that capital punishment makes other people to refuse from the same crimes. The hugest argument for existence of such point of view can be the case of Swedish killer, Andreas Breivik. He killed not one person, he killed many of them. Andreas Breivik is a citizen of the country where death penalty is abolished, so he was sentenced to jail, but most of people who lost their close, relatives and friends could see his smile in the court. He lives and all his rights as a person are strictly adhered. He is guilty and it was proved by the court, but then appears question whether the sentence is fair. If the murderer understands his crime

and if he repents, it is the question. Most people are sure that he does not repent and more than that he is proud of what he has done.

Proponents of death penalty are sure that murder is the hardest crime and those who take life from others should suffer and their suffering should be of the same level as of those whom they killed. All people have a right for life; if someone takes person's life, hence this person should give his/her life in return. It is the most important statement for those who support the idea of death penalty. It is impossible to find someone who is not afraid of death; it is natural instinct of all the living beings. Each person defends his/her life and it is always difficult to imagine how hard person struggles for life and how painful it is for anyone to lose life. It is always hard for relatives to think about these issues and it is natural that all these people who expect for killer's arrest of their close one suffer at the same level. It is always possible to understand such feelings and it is not easy to see how victims are disappointed about sentence of the court.

When opponents say to those people that it is also a murder, they do not agree with them, they stress that it is not the same and if the guilt is proved, all believe that the defendant will give adequate, equally strong punishment. From the point of view of equitability all who give, should get the same in return, so, if someone kills, he/she should get the same.

#### Conclusion

The problem of capital punishment is the most complicated and debating issue in the USA. Last time there is a steady tendency to abolish death penalty in the whole country. Summarizing all the written above it is necessary to say that there are more arguments maintaining the idea of abolishing of capital punishment. It is a crime itself when someone is sentenced to death being mentally sick, usually such people do not understand what they do, of course they should be cured, and sometimes even forcibly. When witnesses are not sure about what they see and hear and when there are some doubts about the guilty of a defendant

it should be prohibited to apply death penalty. This is a problem of courts mistakes, which can not be corrected; and there are some morals points, that a person who made a crime, such hard as murder, should realize his actions and repent. People who are in favor for death penalties believe that in the moment of coming death, such people can repent. However, most of sentenced to death do not do it as the fear of death makes them paralyzed. It means that the result can not be achieved, and at the same time any compulsory death is the same crime from the point of view of ethics. It is also impossible to take aside the question of racial discrimination which exists in some cases of sentencing to death. From my point of view these are enough arguments to abolish capital punishment in the country.

However, it is also important to take into consideration thoughts and minds of those who believe in deterrent effect of death penalty, who believe that murderer, should suffer from what he has done on the same level as victim. It is also very important to pay attention to the feelings of those who lost their close, relatives and friends because of such crimes. Victims of murder crimes do not think that death penalty can be murder itself, as it is punishment for what defendant has done and for all sufferings he/she inflicted to his/her victim. People should be responsible for all they do and such cases like Breivik crime should be also taken into consideration from the point of view of feelings of his victims.

From my point of view capital punishment can never solve the problem. I mean that it can never make murderers think about their actions, so it can work as deterrent from such crime. Our society should think about the appropriate punishments for people who kill others just for fun or because of their hatred for people. I believe that it is worth of analyzing all points of view of all people and find the way to make criminals realize their actions, repent and see the ways to ask for forgiveness from those to whom they have done so much harm. It is also very important to follow all the civil rights of people and never abolish their human rights to live and to be defended from those who can make crime and can take people's lives.

I am sure that each case of murder should be carefully examined in the court before sentencing.

Works Cited

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