

Abstract

The aim of my thesis is to analyze the issue of life imprisonment. This punishment is in the recently legal order of the Czech Republic the strictest punishment, which is imposed only for the most serious crimes. It is the punishment, which replaced the death penalty in many countries of the world. The goal of my research is to find the answer to question, if the life imprisonment is a convenient punishment for the worst cases of enormity. My thesis deals not only with the law aspects of this problem, but also discusses the sociological, psychological, moral and economical implications too.

The thesis is composed of twelve chapters, each of them dealing with different aspects of the issue of life imprisonment. The brief introduction is followed by the chapter about the conception and purpose of the punishment.

Chapter Three discusses the problem, if life imprisonment is a sufficient alternative to the cancelled death penalty. After that follows the inevitable chapter about the historical excursion. Next part of my thesis concentrates on the position of life sentence in the system of criminal law in the Czech Republic.

The main law aspects of life imprisonment, which are the crux of this thesis, are drawn in chapters Six, Seven and Eight. Here you can find the material and procedural conditions, in which is possible to sentence this punishment. One of these chapters is concerned with the conditional release too.

Chapter Nine concentrates on problems resulting from the execution of life sentence punishment. Part One focuses on legal form of execution of this punishment. Part Two then illustrates the reality in prisons of the Czech Republic. The execution of life sentence punishment is of course connected with psychological and sociological consequences. These consequences are drawn in chapter Ten.

Chapter Eleven defines basic legal regulations of life sentence in some foreign countries (specifically Slovakia, Germany, Great Britain, Netherlands and France). These regulations can be potentially used like the subject matter of the discussions about the future legal regulation in the Czech Republic.

Conclusions *de lege lata* and topics *de lege ferenda* are drawn in the last Chapter Twelve. I hope that my thesis provides a comprehensive view on the issue of life imprisonment and it can be able to help you create a general idea about this complicated broad issue.