

## Abstract

This thesis deals with one of the instruments of criminal law, specifically with the death penalty. The death penalty is already for many years a controversial topic and discussed it around the world. Even if this penalty many states have several years or decades canceled or not applied it, greatly debating whether they should be re-imposed.

After an introductory explanation of why I chose the death penalty as a topic of my thesis, followed by a treatise about punishment, its kinds, purpose together with theories that look at this, and more specifically about what exactly is meant by the term death penalty and how the purpose of already listed, relates specifically to it.

In the next part of my work we find general historical development of this institute, development of capital punishment in the Czech Republic and international documents concerning human rights and also my theme. In the context of the general historical development we look at how the death penalty looked like in antiquity, the Middle Ages, the period of absolutism gradually until we get to the present. Within Czech countries will focus on the developments till 1918, during the first republic, the Protectorate period, the postwar development and the development until 1990, when the death penalty was abolished in our country. Regarding the international documents, we will discuss here on important documents of the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the European Union and the United States.

The most major arguments by opponents and adherents of the death penalty are given In the seventh chapter. Among opinions of opponents of the death penalty can be, among others, find the argument of judicial error, the possibility of reforming the offender and the right to life, while in the context of arguments following this penalty to learn something about preventive and retribution effect, and also about the economic factor of capital punishment.

The next two chapters deal with the possible methods of capital punishment, what methods were used in the context of history and what is allowed today and in which countries. Of these methods we say that were used in our country and in the eighth chapter we will find a summary of the death penalty with the current situation in the world, mainly in which countries is still preserved.

In the penultimate chapter are described alternatives to the death penalty, these are punishment of life imprisonment and a penalty of imprisonment of 20 years to 30 years. Preventive detention is also included here.

My thesis is finished with different opinions on this institution. We find the opinions of different religions, the public opinion of Czech society with the opinions of my family, my friends and work colleagues. Finally, I mention my opinion together with a summary of how the death penalty institute looks like today and where its evolution is further directed.