



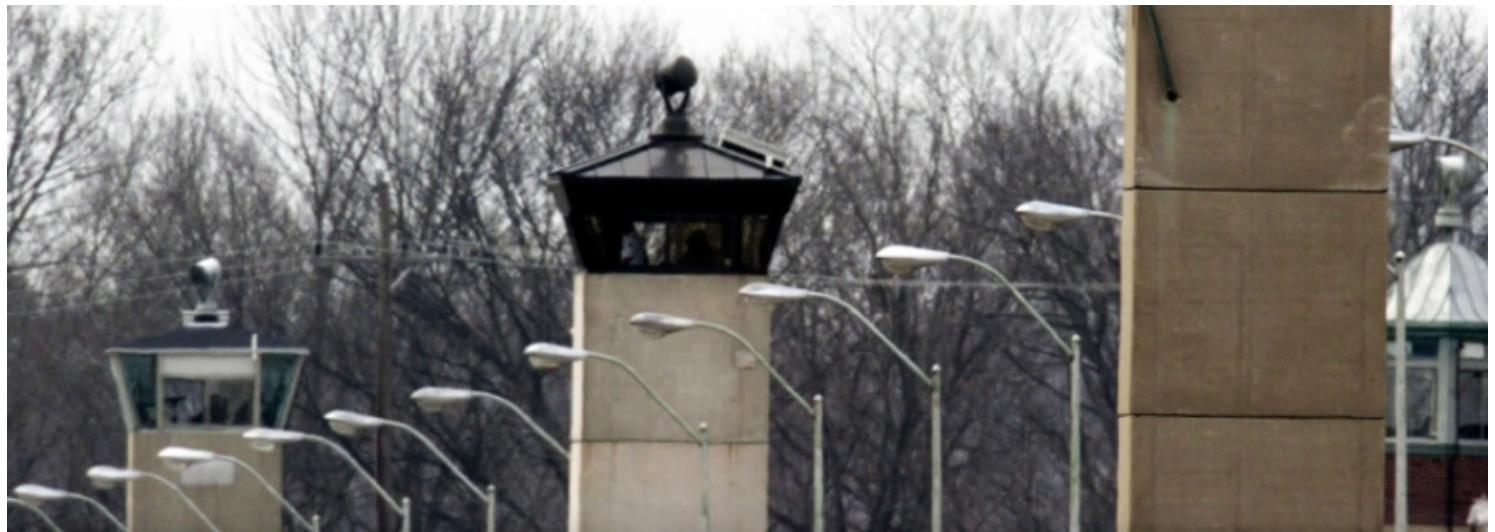
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BREAKING Pelosi to meet President Tsai Ing-wen on Wednesday : Tsai's office

News | Death Penalty

Poison gas, firing squads: US approves more execution



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The outgoing administration of President Donald Trump is paving the way for additional methods of executing prisoners who have been sentenced to death in the United States.

The Justice Department is quietly amending its execution protocols, no longer requiring federal death sentences to be carried out by lethal injection and clearing the way to use other methods like firing squads and poison gas.

Should the death penalty be abolished worldwide?

US executes first Black man since federal death penalty resumed

The amended rule, published on Friday in the Federal Register, allows the US government to conduct executions by lethal injection or use “any other manner prescribed by the law of the state in which the sentence was imposed”.

A number of states allow other methods of execution, including electrocution, inhaling nitrogen gas or death by firing squad.

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US ELECTIONS 2020

Number of state executions over the past decade

* Moratorium on executions Non-death penalty states

0 5 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 110
Number of executions (2010-2019)



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The official said two executions scheduled in December would be done by lethal injection but did not provide information about three others scheduled in January.

The official spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity in order to discuss the internal department protocols.



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The change is likely to set off intense criticism from Democrats and anti-death penalty advocates as the Trump administration tries to push through a number of changes to the US criminal justice system.

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This year, the Justice Department has put to death more people than during the previous half-century, despite waning public support from both Democrats and Republicans for its use.

All states that use the death penalty allow lethal injection – and that is the primary method in all states where other methods are allowed, according to data compiled by the nonprofit Death Penalty Information Center.

Alabama joined Oklahoma and Mississippi in 2018 approving the use of nitrogen gas to execute prisoners, allowing the state to asphyxiate condemned inmates with the gas in some cases.

In some states, inmates can choose the method of their execution.

In Florida, for example, an inmate can specifically ask to be put to death by electrocution and in Washington state, inmates can ask to be put to death by ~~hanging~~.

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Barr said in July 2019 the review had been completed, allowing executions to resume and approved a new procedure for lethal injections that replaced the three-drug combination previously used in federal executions with one drug, pentobarbital.

The one-drug protocol is similar to the procedure used in several states, including Georgia, Missouri and Texas.

SOURCE: NEWS AGENCIES

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The US allows more methods for execution as 39 countries reject UN resolution on a moratorium.

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US federal government executes second prisoner in 17 years

The execution came after legal claims over the mental fitness of the condemned were denied by the Supreme Court.

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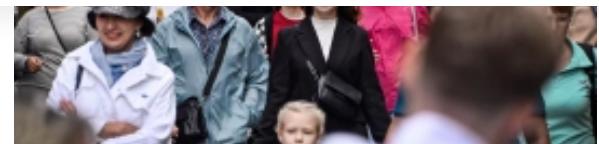


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