

A World Without the Death Penalty: Evolving World Views on Use of the Capital Punishment

George F. Kain, Associate Professor
Western Connecticut State University

On November 26, 2012, the VII International Congress of World Ministers of Justice was held in Rome, Italy. This writer, who spoke at the conference, presents a paper which examines and evaluates the presentations made by various Ministers of Justice from around the world, and characterizes the state of capital punishment as it has evolved over the last decade. Specific concerns over the administration and use of capital punishment will be discussed and analyzed, as well as recent developments that have occurred which impact and challenge commonly held beliefs. Issues which remain of greatest concern to the world ministers will be highlighted, and suggestions by which to address these concerns will be presented. Finally, the status of world capital punishment reform is analyzed and compared to the reform currently in progress in the United States. Implications for the future of capital punishment reform are discussed.