

## “Women, Imprisonment and the Death Penalty in Thailand”

1. “Caminante, no hay camino, se hace camino al andar”, Antonio Machado

2. Assent of **PUBLIC OPINION!** A primary requirement in Thailand, where Vengeance supreme.  
**UNGA vote for Abolition: 2018 123 countries** 2016 117 countries

UCL has campaigned over 12 years, the way still unclear

a. Legal arguments

b. Religious arguments

c.

Drugs

d. Case histories, “Roads to Death”

e. Rights of victims

f. Terrorist deaths

### **NOW: Abolition itself**

3. Politics. Experience of Robert Badinter: “I dreamt of a justice expressed in terms of **liberty**, the French people wanted a justice based on security”; perhaps he could have added “and retribution.” He spoke throughout France on the right to life, met with disagreement and objections, always the same arguments. As in Thailand.

“Justice of reinsertion, or justice of elimination?”

“Lethal criminality does not depend on the presence or absence of the death penalty”

In 1981, François Mitterrand was elected president, and Badinter became the Minister of Justice. Among his first actions was a bill to the French Parliament that abolished the death penalty for all crimes, which the Parliament voted after heated debate on 30 September 1981

4. Women. Example of Ruth Ellis, executed in UK, 1954; women should not to be executed.

Mongolia: Abolition of death penalty for women 2002. Total abolition 2012.

Thailand: “We do not execute women” Balat

**Criminality of women is different. Largely, it involves crimes of circumstance, non-violent and with male incitement.**

### **Abolition of execution of women. (Date of total abolition)**

Austria (1950) The last woman sentenced to death by an ordinary court was Juliane Hummel. She was pole hanged for the murder of her five year old daughter, Anna, on the 2nd of January 1900 at Vienna.

Belgium (1996) The last woman sentenced to death by an ordinary court was Euphrasie-Félicie Deroux, for the murder of her child at the Cour d'assises of the province of Hainaut. She was guillotined at Mons on the 22nd of June 1846.

Denmark (1930). The last official execution was conducted in Copenhagen on “Rødovre Mark” when Ane Cathrine Andersdatter was beheaded by axe on the 21st of December 1861. She had been sentenced to death for the murder of three of her five children.

England (1969). Ruth Ellis was hanged by Albert Pierrepoint at Holloway prison in North London on Wednesday, the 13th of July, 1955 for the murder of her boyfriend David Blakely

France (1981). On the 22nd of April 1949 Germaine Leloy-Godefroy (age 31) became the last woman executed in France, when she was executed in France, when she was guillotined for murdering her

husband

Switzerland (1942). The last woman executed in Switzerland was Geneviève Guénat, who was beheaded by sword for murder at Delsberg, in the canton of Bern, on the 7th of September 1861.

Ireland (1990). Annie Walsh was hanged at Dublin's Mountjoy prison on the 5th of August 1925, together with her nephew, Michael Talbot for the murder of her husband, Edward.

Thailand's 3<sup>rd</sup> Human rights plan, envisaged Moratorium ("Abolition) by end of 2014. The achievement of a ten year moratorium was disrupted by an execution in the ninth year.

5. Current Statistics for death sentences in Thailand

**Total prison population: The figures are the story.**

**349,804 (M 303,717 F 46,087): 82% of imprisoned women are mothers**

**Condemned to death 517 (M 415 F 102)**

**- on drug charges 296 (M 201 F 95)**

**- on other charges 221 (M 214 F 7)**

Currently 88 women: Totally unacceptable prison conditions, ("Centres of evil"!) for these, and all women prisoners.

### **Horror of execution of women**

"Successful" and botched executions

Ginggaew Lorsoongnern, Tran Thi Bich Hang, see cover of UCL study, who died

Mary Jane Veloso, Asia Bibi who live

(see witch hunting and burning, also Thailand's intolerable prison conditions for women)

The Thai women executed since 1932 were:

1. Yai Sonthibumroong, 25 February 1942
2. Ginggaew Lorsoongnern, 13 January 1979, accomplice to murder of kidnapped child
3. Samai Pan-in, 24 November 1999, drug dealer

### **6. Women**

Mechanization, the liberation of man: " But how can we mechanize washing, cuddling, consoling, dressing, and feeding a child, providing sexual services, or assisting those who are ill or elderly and not self-sufficient? What machine could incorporate the skills and affects needed for these tasks? Attempts have been made with the creation of nursebots and interactive lovebots, and it is possible that in the future we may see the production of mechanical mothers. But, ... we must wonder at what emotional cost we could introduce them in our homes in replacement of living labour.....domestic work, and especially the care of children, constitutes most of the work on this planet, is of a highly relational nature and hardly subject to mechanization"

"Re-enchanting the world: Feminism and the Politics of the Commons" Silvia Federici, 2019 PM Press

**Women are irreplaceable!  
So don't execute them!  
NOR MEN EITHER!**