

URGENT ACTION

HEBEI MAN EXECUTED

Jia Jinglong was executed on 15 November after the China Supreme People's Court approved his death sentence with immediate execution.

Jia Jinglong, a man from Hebei province, was sentenced to death on 15 November. His legal team had been hoping for a last minute reversal by the China's Supreme People's Court. The execution was carried out right after Jia Jinglong saw his family for the last time.

China is the world's top executioner. Although Amnesty International does not publish any figures for China, the organization believes, based on ongoing monitoring of developments in the criminal justice system, that China's executions remain in the thousands annually. However there are indications that the number of executions has decreased since the Supreme People's Court began reviewing the implementation of the death penalty in 2007. Amendments to the Criminal Law in 2015, which came into effect in November 2015, reduced the number of crimes punishable by death from 55 to 46. State media indicated that although the nine crimes were rarely used and would have little impact in reducing the number of executions, their deletion was in line with the government's policy of "kill fewer, kill more cautiously". However, the revised provisions still failed to bring the Criminal Law in line with requirements under international law and standards on the use of the death penalty.

No further action is required of the network. Thank you to all of those who sent appeals.

This is the first update of UA 243/16. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa17/5030/2016/en/>

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