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## **Constitutional bill on banning the death penalty remarks by M. Jacques CHIRAC, President of the Republic, in the Council of ministers.**

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Paris, 17 January 2007

- With this bill, France is going to affirm in her basic law her solemn commitment to the absolute respect for human life, which is inviolable and sacrosanct in all circumstances.
- It will prohibit restoration of an inhumane sentence, which can't be an act of justice.
- It will also allow France to pursue her efforts to promote universal abolition [of the death penalty], at a time when 78 countries still apply this punishment.
- Parliament will be convened in Congress [joint meeting of the National Assembly and Senate] with a view to the bill being passed before the end of the Parliamentary session./.

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