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Death penalty remarks by M. Jacques CHIRAC, President of the Republic, in the Council of ministers

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Nearly 80 countries in the world still apply the death penalty.

The battle France is fighting is for justice and full recognition of human dignity.

Under no circumstances can the death penalty constitute justice.

This is why I wanted our Constitution to declare that no one can be sentenced to death. This is now the case.

France has given herself the means to pursue her international action to promote universal abolition [of the death penalty].

By acceding to these two international protocols, France will be contributing even more actively to the achievement of this major step forward for civilization and mankind.

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