



In modern times, the death penalty has become a subject of global discourse with significant implications for international relations. The formation of international bodies like United Nations after World War II established frameworks for human rights discussions including capital punishment. This culminated in landmark agreements such as Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR aiming at abolition of death penalty globally.

Despite these initiatives by international community towards universal abolitionism there remains considerable variation among nations' positions on capital punishment today - reflective more than ever before perhaps of unique cultural contexts each country's politics are embedded within.

## **The Impact of the Death Penalty on Diplomatic Relations: Case Studies**

On the other hand, Akmal Shaikh's execution by Chinese authorities for drug smuggling attracted international attention primarily because he was a British national and had claimed mental health issues as his defense. His execution intensified tensions between Britain and China significantly given that there were pleas for clemency based on humanitarian grounds from British officials which were disregarded by Chinese counterparts.

These cases vividly illustrate how executions can stir diplomatic controversies especially when they involve foreign nationals or where there is perceived violation of human rights norms - showcasing the complex interplay between domestic policy prerogatives and international image considerations.

## **Analysis of Human Rights and the Death Penalty: An International Perspective**

It's noteworthy that even within this broadly defined global consensus on human rights, perspectives on capital punishment can vary substantially among different nations. Countries such as China, Iran and Saudi Arabia continue to implement capital punishment regularly citing their domestic legal systems where such penalties are deemed necessary deterrents against serious crimes. Conversely, majority of countries especially in Europe have abolished death penalty aligning more closely with interpretation of universal human rights norms that perceive it inherently cruel and degrading form of punishment.

This divergence highlights an ongoing tension between upholding universally agreed upon human rights standards versus respecting sovereign nation's autonomy in framing their domestic criminal justice policies.

## **The Role of International Organizations and Treaties in Shaping Death Penalty Policies**

Regional bodies like European Union (EU), which has incorporated abolition of death penalty as one of its core human rights standards, put further pressure upon non-compliant nations through diplomatic avenues or even economic sanctions. Similarly, other international agreements including Protocol No. 13 to ECHR explicitly ban death penalty in all circumstances reinforcing commitment towards universal abolitionism among signatory states.

Through their collective efforts these international organizations and treaties not only highlight prevailing global norms against capital punishment but also apply pressure upon those nations still implementing it - helping slowly reshape domestic policies around world.

## **Comparison between Countries with and without Capital Punishment and their Diplomatic Relations**

On contrast, bilateral relations between countries that both retain death penalty like China and Iran are rarely affected by issues related to capital punishment. These countries tend to prioritize respect for each other's legal systems and national sovereignty over international human rights norms when dealing with matters related to law enforcement and judicial proceedings.

This dynamic is an illustration of how shared perspectives on domestic policies including those controversial ones like capital punishment can influence mutual understanding and cooperation among nations at international level.

## **The Future of the Death Penalty in the Realm of International Relations: Predictions and Proposals**

In order to minimize conflict while upholding universal human rights standards, one proposal could be the establishment of an independent international body that reviews cases involving foreign nationals sentenced to death. Such a mechanism would offer oversight over judicial proceedings, ensure fair trials and uphold procedural safeguards essential for justice - thereby potentially diffusing tensions arising from such instances at an early stage. This proposition requires careful deliberation respecting individual country's sovereignty whilst ensuring adherence to internationally accepted human rights norms.