

Speaking on behalf of HRA + ^{NICKI.} ASS of Criminal ^{executive} defense lawyers

Good afternoon m. chair

Juvenile sentencing is guided by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, both of which prohibit the execution of juveniles and the sentence of life without parole for persons under age 18. Despite almost universal adherence with these norms, several states continue to violate international law with respect to their treatment of minors.

The nature of these practices highlight the importance of state reporting and monitoring. In most prisons around the world, where juveniles are tried and sentenced as adults, they are literally lost in an adult system, relinquishing any status as a minor. State parties that sentence their juveniles to death or life in prison rarely track these individuals, leaving efforts to determine the status of the law or the offenders serving these sentences to the special rapporteurs and other reporting mechanisms.

This problem is not to be underestimated. Juveniles are still sentenced to death and executed in Iran and many remain on death row in Saudi Arabia. The United States, although recently abolishing the death penalty, is home to over 2,000 individuals serving life without parole sentences for crimes committed under the age of 18. ^{In some states} Some of these ^{the sentence} individuals are ~~are serving sentences~~ for crimes committed when they were as young as 10 years of age. Because domestic reporting mechanisms are virtually nonexistent in ~~these~~ ^{in these} many countries, UN reporting mechanisms are absolutely crucial to determine the status of the law and the number of violators serving adult sentences.

My question to the ~~Council~~ ^{Panel} is, how ^{can} does the Council plan on addressing these specific reporting problems with regard to juvenile justice when children are tried, sentenced, and tracked as adults under domestic law? What will happen to these children when any trace of their minor status fades into the abyss of adult penitentiary systems?

Surely we can all agree that the ~~special procedures designed to hold states accountable for their human rights obligations should be an integral part of the Council's agenda in the future.~~

there needs to be mechanisms thru either special procedures or ^{dedicated} agenda items to insure that ~~juvenile~~ ^{justice} ~~issues~~ ^{issues} can be addressed by the Council