

## OPINIONS ON THE PROPOSED RE-IMPOSITION OF DEATH PENALTY IN THE PHILIPPINES

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**Abstract:** The objective of this study is to find out the opinions of the AB Political Science students and selected professional-respondents on the proposed re-imposition of death penalty in the Philippines. The profile of the AB Political Science students and selected professional-respondents are considered in this study. The researcher utilized the descriptive as well as qualitative methods of research and used the purposive sampling in choosing the respondents. An outline theme and predetermine questions was made before the conduct of the interview. The findings and conclusions of this study are as follows: Majority of the student-respondents are female, residents from the municipalities outside Candon City, Ilocos Sur and members of various protestant churches. On the other hand, majority of the professional-respondents are male and Catholics. Majority of the AB Political science students and selected professional -respondents are not in favor to the proposed re-imposition of death penalty in the Philippines. It implied that they agree that death penalty violates our deepest belief in God as the creator and the redeemer of human life and that execution prevents the repentance and rehabilitation of offenders which is contrary to Christian love and violates the sanctity of human life.

**Keywords:** Death Penalty, AB Political Science Students, Professionals

## Introduction

Re-imposition of death penalty in the Philippines is one of the controversial pronouncements of President Rodrigo Duterte before he assumed power. Duterte had said in many of his interviews that he would reintroduce capital punishment and give security forces “shoot-to-kill” orders in his war against crime.

Capital punishment in the Philippines has a varied history and is currently suspended as of 2006. Capital punishment was legal after independence and increased in use under the Ferdinand Marcos regime. After the fall of Marcos, there was a moratorium on capital punishment from 1987–1999, followed by a resumption in executions from 1999–2006, followed by a law ending the practice. The death penalty seems likely to return to the Philippines. *wikipedia.com*

There are those who strongly opposing the proposal of the President, however, there are some personalities who agree about it. The Catholic and Protestant churches, Amnesty International, and many individuals are some of them. The National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP) has long declared that the death penalty violates the deepest belief in God. The NCCP argues that execution prevents the repentance and rehabilitation of offenders is contrary to Christian love and violates the sanctity of human life.

According to Tendrol, Buddhists and along with a growing number of members of other religions, believe that the death penalty is fundamentally unethical. From the Buddhist perspective, non-violence, or not harming others, is the heart of the Buddha’s teachings.

On the other hand, Punongbayan and Kevin Mandrilla (2017) said that the death penalty can be assailed on many grounds, whether moral, philosophical, or legal. But just by focusing on the available data, it is apparent that the death penalty, as used in the past, was largely unnecessary and ineffective in reducing crime.

Meanwhile, Senator Manny Pacquiao, said that death penalty is lawful and moral. Pacquiao stated that “I am convinced that God is not just a God of mercy, but also a God of justice”. Another Senator who supports death penalty is Senator Panfilo Lacson who believe it is still a good deterrent against crime.

## Objective of the Study

This study revolves around the opinions on the proposed re-imposition of death penalty in the Philippines by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte. It aimed to inform the readers about the opinions of the AB Political Science students and profession-respondents on the proposed re-imposition of death penalty in the Philippines.

## Statement of the Problem

Specifically, the researcher would like to answer the following questions:

1. What is the profile of the AB Political Science student-respondents in terms of:  
a) sex, b) place of residence and c) religion?
2. What is the profile of the professional respondents in terms of the following: a) age, b) sex, c) vocation?
3. What are the opinions of the AB Political Science students and professional-respondents on the proposed re-imposition of death penalty in the Philippines?

**Respondents of the Study**

The respondents of this study are the 22 4<sup>th</sup> AB Political Science enrolled during the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of School Year 2016-2017 at North Luzon Philippines State College.

However, at least ten (10) selected professionals were interviewed and asked about their opinion on the proposed re-imposition of death penalty in the country.

**Research Design**

The researcher utilized the descriptive as well as qualitative methods of research and used the purposive sampling in choosing the respondents. An outline theme and predetermine questions was made before the conduct of the interview.

## RESULT OF THE STUDY

**Question No. 1.** What is the profile of the AB Political Science student-respondents in terms of sex, place of residence, and religion?

There are five or 22.73 percent AB Political Science student-respondents who are males and 17 or 77.27 percent females. Eight or 36.36 percent whose place of residence are within Candon City and 14 or 63.64 percent are from outside Candon City. There are ten or 45.45 percent are Catholics while 12 or 54.55 percent are non-Catholics. Majority of the student-respondents are females, residents from the municipalities outside Candon City, Ilocos Sur and members of various protestant churches.

**Question No. 2.** What is the profile of the professional - respondents in terms of age, sex, and vocation?

Sex	<i>f</i>	%
Male	7	70.00
Female	3	30.00
Total	10	100.00
Religion	<i>f</i>	%
Catholic	8	80.00
Non-Catholics	2	20.00
Total	10	100.00
Vocation	<i>f</i>	%
Police Officer	1	10.00
Banker	1	10.00
Activist	1	10.00
University Official	1	10.00
Local Politician	1	10.00
Media Practitioner	1	10.00
Businessman	1	10.00
College Instructor	1	10.00
City Official	1	10.00
Legal Practitioner	1	10.00
Total	10	100.00

There are seven or 70.00 percent male respondents and three or 30.00 percent are females. Eight or 80.00 percent Catholics and two or 20.00 percent non-Catholics. The vocations of the professional-respondents are: police officer, banker, activist, University official, local politician, media practitioner, businessman, college instructor, City official and legal practitioner.

**Question No. 3.** What are the opinions of the AB Political Science students and professional-respondents on the proposed re-imposition of death penalty in the Philippines?

AB Political Science Students	<i>f</i>	%
In Favor	6	27.27
Not in favor	16	72.73
Total	22	100.00
Professionals	<i>f</i>	%
In favor	3	30.00
Not in favor	7	70.00
Total	10	100.00

Out of 22 AB Political Science major student-respondents who were enrolled during the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of School Year 2016 – 2017, six or 27.27 percent said they are in favor to the re-imposition of death penalty in the Philippines while sixteen (16) or 72.73 percent stated that they are not in favor. It shows that majority of the AB Political science student -respondents are not in favor to the proposed re-imposition of death penalty in the Philippines. On the other hand, based from the interview of the professional-respondents, seven or 70.00 percent said they are not in favor on the proposed re-imposition of death penalty in the Philippines while three or 30.00 percent said they are in favor. It shows that majority of the professional-respondents are not in favor to the proposed re-imposition of death penalty in the Philippines.

The findings above support the views of Catholic and Protestant churches, Amnesty International, and many individuals who opposed to the proposal of the re-imposition of death penalty in the Philippines. It also implied that they agree to the statement of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines that death penalty violates our deepest belief in God as the creator and the redeemer of human life and that execution prevents the repentance and rehabilitation of offenders which is contrary to Christian love and violates the sanctity of human life.

### **Opinions of the AB Political Science student-respondents on the proposed re-imposition of death penalty in the Philippines**

#### Not in favor to the re-imposition of death penalty in the Philippines

Aldous Kahlil C. Abrero

No. Because fundamental rights of every human being to life, dignity, preservation and sanctity of life should consider with high value.

Relina Claire L. Gonzalo

I'm not in favor because during the deliberations in congress about its pros and cons is not convincing and our judiciary is weak to handle the death penalty cases.

Jaemee Erleen T. Espejo

I'm AGAINST. It is discriminatory against the poor, especially since they are usually not provided with a competent legal counsel.

Jude Ann A. Tasani  
No. it is anti-poor.

Judy Ann S. Garnace  
I am not in favor of the death penalty. I don't think that re-implementing the death penalty will discourage criminal activities in the country.

Kristine G. Barroga  
The government should first improve the justice system. Death penalty is useless because rich people can only manipulate judicial system.

Mary Ann C. Villalobos  
No. Because in my opinion, death penalty is good if only the Philippines judicial system is good, fair and just.

May G. Sumakiab  
I think death penalty is not a punishment rather it would just be a revenge. I believe that person's life should be protected under all circumstances even a person is guilty. I am against.

Nelto Jay D. Novida  
I don't think that death penalty is the ultimate solution to crime in our society.

Melvin C. Viernes  
I am not favor for re-imposing this type of punishment. It is against our religious belief.

George L. Tomacdang  
Death penalty is not the solution to lessen criminality and drug problems.

Rose Ann S. Garringo  
No to Death Penalty and Yes to tough, rational and humane implementation of laws.

Mei Han J. Wong  
I am not in favor of the death penalty. I don't think that re-implementing the death penalty is going to fix the crimes in our country.

#### In favor to the re-imposition of death penalty in the Philippines

Joefhyll Shane G. Marcos  
I am in favor because I believe that justice will be best served through death penalty.

Dexter Jhon B. Cagdan  
I agree that penalty be re-imposed as soon as possible. Not only to punish criminals at the worst way but I think it is a solution to lessen or if possible to eliminate crimes in our society.

Emera B. Marte

I am not against to the re-imposition of the death penalty and if I may suggest that they should expand it and they should include other heinous crimes whether it is related to drugs, like rape, plunder and etc. With death penalty there is hope for peace and for the good people to live peacefully. With death penalty there is also fear for those criminals to commit such crime.

Joyada P. Sagorsor

I believe that the proposed re-imposition of death penalty in the Philippines will surely lessen the criminality in the country. It will serve as a warning to criminals who will commit a crime.

Mayjean G. Lames

I am for it because it is constitutional. I believe the re-imposition is a deterrent to crimes

Susan G. Cam-ani

Re-imposition of death penalty in our country might be the right move of the government to at least eradicate the crimes here in the Philippines.

### **Opinions of the professional-respondents on the proposed re-imposition of death penalty in the Philippines**

#### In favor on the re-imposition of death penalty

- I support the proposed re-imposition of death penalty in the Philippines. I believe it is less costly for taxpayers to have hardened criminals executed rather than supporting them for life in case of life imprisonment, the alternative punishment.
- Yes. The contention that death penalty violates the criminals human right to life is I'd rather hold with higher regard the mostly weak, innocent and righteous victims right to life as the real human right than that of the criminals!
- Life is very precious; however, if there is no other way to reform a bad guy or hardened criminals, then I think death penalty can be justified.

#### Against the re-imposition of death penalty

- I don't agree that making death penalty legal would be suitable to our present judicial system. In many instances, underprivileged cannot afford choose a lawyer that would represent them in legal litigation. Imposition of death penalty as maximum penalty is a violation to the people's right to life as enshrined in our constitution.
- I am not in-favor to the re-imposition of death penalty in the Philippines. Filipinos are mostly Christians and I don't believe that I has the support of the majority of the citizens.
- I am against for the simple reason that it is not ideal to a system where rich and powerful usually influenced legal system.
- Death penalty is not a solution to totally eliminate crime in our society. I believe that when everybody is enjoying life because everybody's basic needs is guaranteed such as shelter, medicine, education, clothing and food; then there would definitely reason for anybody to commit crime.
- I'm against it. It isn't a deterrent to crime.
- No, I am not in favor of capital punishment.
- A big no because proposing the re-imposition of death penalty is tantamount of saying that our government is not effective in enforcing laws.

## Summary, Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations

### Summary:

The objective of this study is to find out the opinions of the AB Political Science students and selected professional-respondents on the proposed re-imposition of death penalty in the Philippines.

The researcher utilized the descriptive as well as qualitative methods of research and used the purposive sampling in choosing the interviewees. An outline theme and predetermine questions was made before the conduct of the interview. The respondents were interviewed on their opinion whether or not they are in favor to the re-imposition of death penalty in the Philippines.

### Findings:

There are five or 22.73 percent AB Political Science student-respondents who are males and 17 or 77.27 percent females. Eight or 36.36 percent whose place of residence are within Candon City and 14 or 63.64 percent are from outside Candon City. There are ten or 45.45 percent are Catholics while 12 or 54.55 percent are non-Catholics.

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Out of 22 AB Political Science major student-respondents, six or 27.27 percent said they are in favor to the re-imposition of death penalty in the Philippines while 17 or 72.73 percent are not in favor. Majority of the AB Political science student -respondents are not in favor to the proposed re-imposition of death penalty in the Philippines. On the other hand, based from the interview of the professional-respondents, seven or 70.00 percent said they are not in favor on the proposed re-imposition of death penalty in the Philippines while three or 30.00 percent said they are in favor. It shows that majority of the professional-respondents are not in favor to the proposed re-imposition of death penalty in the Philippines.

### Conclusions:

Majority of the student-respondents are females, residents from the municipalities outside Candon City, Ilocos Sur and members of various protestant churches. On the other hand, majority of the professional-respondents are males and Catholics.

Majority of the AB Political science students and selected professional -respondents are not in favor to the proposed re-imposition of death penalty in the Philippines.

The findings of the study support the views of Catholic and Protestant churches, Amnesty International, and many individuals who opposed to the proposal of the re-imposition of death penalty in the Philippines. It also implied that they agree to the statement of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines that death penalty violates our deepest belief in God as the creator and the redeemer of human life and that execution prevents the repentance and rehabilitation of offenders which is contrary to Christian love and violates the sanctity of human life.



**Recommendations:**

The following are recommended by the researcher based from findings of the study:

1. There should be an honest to goodness survey where all citizens will be asked whether or not they agree to the re-imposition of death penalty in the Philippines and that everybody's opinion should be considered.
2. Filipinos is predominantly Christians and are members of Roman Catholic, though there is a principle of church and the state, still respecting the opinions of the church particularly on the issue of death penalty would at least create harmony between politics and religion.
3. Other studies should be conducted by other researchers and consider the recommendation number 1 of this study.

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