



## Life imprisonment

# The growing use of it around the globe and reform possibilities

Tuesday 9 March 2021, 11:30 - 13:00 (JST)

Recording will be available at [www.penalreform.org](http://www.penalreform.org)



At least 183 countries and territories allow for life imprisonment. There are at least half a million persons serving ‘formal life sentences’ as of 2014 – a rise of nearly 84% since 2000. At this event leaders and experts will discuss global findings, country case studies and hear testimony about serving life – providing the evidence and basis for reform on this critical issue.

### Welcoming remarks

Ilze Brands Kehris, **UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights**

H.E. Ms. Francisca Van Dunem,  
**Minister of Justice, Portugal**

### Life imprisonment globally

Prof. Dirk van Zyl Smit and Dr. Catherine Appleton, ***Life Imprisonment: A Global Human Rights Analysis***, 2019

Olivia Rope, Executive Director, **Penal Reform International**

Philipp Meissner, UN **Office on Drugs and Crime**, Inter-regional Advisor and Prison Reform Focal Point

### Country case studies and testimony

Mr Shoji Sakurai, **who spent 29 years in Japanese prison and then acquitted.**

Yuichi Kaido, **Japan Federation of Bar Associations**

Inês Horta Pinto, PhD researcher at the School of Law, **University of Coimbra, Portugal**

Frances Crook, Executive Director, **Howard League for Penal Reform (England and Wales)**

**Moderated by** Jamil Dakwar, Director, Human Rights Program, **American Civil Liberties Union**