

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



## Death Penalty News Access Tape

English and Mandarin

[LENGTH]

### **Note on copyright:**

This footage was filmed at the 4th World Congress Against the Death Penalty in February 2010 the event was organized by 'Ensemble Contre la Peine de Mort' (ECPM) ([www.abolition.fr](http://www.abolition.fr)), in partnership with the 'World Coalition Against the Death Penalty' ([www.worldcoalition.org](http://www.worldcoalition.org))

Amnesty International owns or has cleared full non-broadcast and broadcast rights to all footage. All footage is for free and unrestricted worldwide non-broadcast and broadcast use, providing that 'Ensemble Contre la Peine de Mort' (ECPM) is credited. **Not for library use.**

For details on sources of footage and for broadcast rights, please contact the Media and Audiovisual Program at Amnesty International on Tel: +44 (0) 207 413 5566.

**09:59:15  
CLOCK**

**10:00:10**

*Contents:*

*10:00:20 I/V Zhou Qing*

*10:02:26 I/V Bill Babbitt*

*10:04:08 I/V Curtis McCarty*

*10:06:32 I/V Jiang Tianyong*

*10:07:41 I/V Nazanin Afshin-Jam*

*10:08:16 I/V Claudio Cordone*

### **Zhou Qing I/V Clip**

*Zhou Qing was involved in 1989's democratic movement, for which he was sentenced to two years imprisonment, with eight months added for attempting to escape. Prior to his release in 1992 some of his time was spent in the cells of death row and in solitary confinement.*

## **Zhou Qing – Author and former political prisoner**

**10:00:20 Zhou Qing:** “Being in a cell you realize how fragile life is and the ugly side of human nature makes you feel hopeless.

**10:00:33** “One day a prisoner sentenced to death may be fighting with you over a moldy bun until we bleed. Tomorrow he is taken out and shot.”

**10:00:45** “And the same night he is killed, another prisoner on death row may already be sleeping in the same bed and using the same pillow he used as well as the towels that were left after he was executed.”

**10:01:00** “I was held in the same prison as those sentenced to death.

**10:01:03** “My cell, when it was most crowded could hold 22 to 23 prisoners, at the least crowded time it held 12 to 13 prisoners.”

**10:01:14** “Approximately 80% were on death row, of the others some were sentenced to 15 years, some were sentenced to death with reprieve and others sentenced to 50 years and so on. That was the situation.”

**10:01:24** “Because lawyers were not paid they would not make a real effort to defend the accused.

**10:01:29** Also some prisoners were charged with minor crimes such as stealing; lawyers would not become famous by defending that kind of case.

**10:01:35** “Thus it resulted in a lot of rash executions.”

**10:01:40** *Cutaway shots of Zhou Qing at the 4<sup>th</sup> World Congress Against the Death Penalty in Geneva, February 2010.*

**10:02:07** *Photograph of Zhou Qing outside Xian prison in Shaanxi province on the day he was released in 1992.*

**10:02:15** *Watchtower of Feng Xiang Zao Zihe prison, Shaanxi Province. Zhou Qing was detained here for over a year.*

## **Bill Babbitt I/V Clip**

*Since the execution of his brother, Manny Babbitt in 1999, Bill Babbitt testifies at conferences and meetings about the way the death penalty affects families of the executed. Manny Babbitt served two tours of duty with the U.S. Marine Corps in Vietnam and was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. This did not prevent him from being sentenced to death for the murder of an elderly woman, Leah Schendel, in 1980.*

**Bill Babbitt - Member of the Board of Directors, *Murder Victims Families for Human Rights* and brother of an executed prisoner**

**10:02:26 Bill Babbitt:** “You should have seen that day. You should have seen that day. We heard my brother Manny’s going to get a Purple Heart on death row...”

**10:02:35** “And the radio comes on and it goes: ‘Manny Babbitt, a Marine, getting a Purple Heart at San Quentin this morning.’ And I’m saying ‘yeah, yeah!’ and my wife is ‘yeah!’. Manny’s going to get a Purple Heart! Surely this is going to save Manny’s life. Surely this is going to save Manny’s life – how they going to kill him now, you know what I mean?”

**10:02:58** “They didn’t get it! They didn’t get the closure they were promised. They promised the Schendel family, they said look we have a cup here and this cup has a wonderful tonic and it’s called ‘closure’. And if you drink this, drink from this cup, you drink this closure. And that man’s death is going to make you feel better.”

**10:03:21** *Photograph of Bill Babbitt, Manny Babbitt and their nephew and Bill’s wife Linda at San Quentin Prison on the day of Manny’s execution.*

**10:03:29** *Photograph of Manny Babbitt as a young man in his Marine Corp dress uniform, before his experiences in Vietnam*

**10:03:34** *Photograph of Manny Babbitt’s open casket after his execution. Manny was laid to rest in his Marine dress uniform after a graveside ceremony, which included full military honors for the decorated Vietnam veteran.*

**10:03:39** *Photograph of Manny Babbitt, dressed in his combat fatigues, in Vietnam where he served two terms.*

**10:03:44** *Photograph of Manny Babbitt, reading letters from home, whilst in Vietnam.*

**10:03:49** *Photograph of Manny Babbitt pictured leaning against a tank, in Vietnam.*

**10:03:54** *Photograph of Manny Babbitt, with his sister-in-law Linda Babbitt, before the murder of Leah Schendel. At this time Manny had been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Paranoid Schizophrenia.*

**10:03:59** *Photograph of Manny Babbitt on his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1999. He was executed the next day.*

**Curtis McCarty I/V Clip**

*Curtis McCarty served 21 years in prison, including 16 years on death row, for the murder of a woman in Oklahoma city in 1982. He was exonerated in 2007, cleared of any guilt. McCarty was sentenced to death based on prosecutorial misconduct and testimony from forensic analyst Joyce Gilchrist, whose evidence was later overturned.*

**Curtis McCarty – Former death row prisoner, now exonerated**

**10:04:09** “But it was harsh, on a day-to-day basis, just having to live under such conditions, being locked-down only because of our sentence and not because of

anything we did. That kind of treatment is reserved for inmates who transgress the rules inside of the facility, you go to lock-down, where you can't come out. But death row is lock-down all the time. So I had to live my whole life like that."

**10:04:41** "I wish, as I said earlier that I could say that I'm happy about my release, but the truth is there's very little to celebrate. In fact there's nothing to celebrate about what happened. One day I'm on one side of a steel door and the next day I'm on the other side and it didn't change anything about what they did to me and my family – and again, the victim and her family. It was horrible. It was unfair treatment of everybody involved."

**10:05:21** "You know there comes a point where you can't even be mad any more. Where the blows from the government don't hurt anymore. You get numb to it after a while, they hit you enough and it doesn't hurt anymore."

**10:05:39** "You know sometimes I still behave like I'm in prison. For the whole of my adult life, that was my home. Those were the people that knew me, that was my family and my community. That's where I grew up into a man and matured and began to educate myself"

**10:06:09** *Cutaways Curtis McCarty*

### **Jiang Tianyong I/V Clip**

*Jiang Tianyong is a prominent Human Rights lawyer in Beijing, China. He has defended a number of death row prisoners.*

**10:06:32** "First of all, I am personally very eager to live in a society which has the rule of law, to live in a society that has freedom."

**10:06:43** "I cannot imagine I will be living in the current, rather oppressive, society forever."

**10:06:51** "I also could not imagine my children will still live in such an environment in the future. So in such an environment, we need more people to participate to make change."

**10:07:03** "And what we are doing is firmly following the current Chinese law. We do not do anything violating the law, on the contrary we are defending Chinese laws."

**10:07:18** "Even though the Chinese government is not very happy about some of these things."

**10:07:25** "As Chinese citizens, we have the responsibility and have the desire to push China to move towards a society with the rule of law."

### **I/V Nazanin Afshin-Jam**

**10:07:42** “Under Sharia Law, which the penal code of Iran is based on, it states that a girl at age nine is an adult and a boy at fifteen, so they are criminally responsible at those ages.”

**10:07:54** “Now because they’ve signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the charter on the rights of the child, they [*Iran*] kind of bastardise the international laws and they say ‘fine, well we won’t sentence a nine year old girl to death, we’ll wait until she turns eighteen and they we’ll carry out the execution.’”

#### **I/V Claudio Cordone**

**10:08:16** “This year - for the first time - we are not publishing any figures on executions in China for a simple reason that the Chinese government continues, despite repeated appeals, to maintain secrecy around the number of executions. They also argue at the same time that there is a decrease in executions, so it is a very simple question: if, in fact, there is a decrease in executions and the use of the death penalty, why aren’t these figures made public?”

**10:08:42** “In the past we have used estimations and in any case, whatever figures one can come up with from available information grossly underestimate the reality: thousands of people continue to be executed in China and we want the Chinese government to give us the exact figures as-well-as tell us what it is they are doing to progress towards abolition.”

**10:09:04** “Last year, Amnesty International has witnessed the continued use of the death penalty on political grounds. Some of the glaring examples are Iran, where in the eight weeks following the presidential elections, 112 people were executed. Other examples are Sudan where we have had over 50 death sentences for people being accused of being members of an opposition group in the Darfur region. And China as well, following disorder in the Uighur autonomous region in July 2009, four months later 9 people were executed.”

**10:09:41** “Today we are pleased to say that we do see an end in sight for the death penalty. Being with Amnesty International for more than 24 years and I have seen how progressively the death penalty has been eliminated from country after country. More people around the world are realising that this is a punishment that it is against human dignity; it doesn't achieve any purpose and it should be confined to history in the same way that slavery, apartheid and some of the other things that today we consider abominations have been confined to history.”

**10:10:17** “What we see today and what we saw last year for the first time ever there were no executions in Europe. In the Americas, the United States was the only country still killing people through executions and in Africa, in Sub-Saharan Africa, only two countries were still doing so.”

**10:10:34** “So, it will take struggle still and we need to keep active and continue to campaign around the world. But, we are seeing the end of the death penalty getting closer.”

**10:10:43** “Looking at developments on the death penalty throughout last year, I feel a sense of renewed outrage that this penalty that is so much against human dignity, that achieves nothing still continues to be used - even though in a smaller number of

countries – but we still have to witness the cold blooded murder of people at the hands of the state. But at the same time also a sense of hope because the trend toward abolition continues and gathers pace. More countries are getting rid of this punishment, more people are accepting the fact that real implementation of human rights also means respect for the right to life and that starts with the state not killing people in this form of ritualised killing that the death penalty effectively is.”

**10:10:32** Cutaways of Claudio Cordone's hands,

|  
**10:12:25** END