

Families of those sentenced to death — have you ever thought about them?

Even those on death row have families:

parents, siblings, partners, young children.

From the time of the crime until the final confirmation of the death sentence, what do these families go through, and what thoughts and feelings do they carry?

Violence, both visible and invisible, from the media

"Right after the arrest, the media rushed in — they even opened the door without permission and came into the house. Maybe they wanted to film us getting angry. But we didn't have the strength to be angry."

"Since the reporters came, my mother has been bedridden."

Isolation and lonelines

"After the incident, I avoided people as much as possible and stayed inside the house."

"I kept my distance from society. I didn't even go to class reunions."

"When the death sentence was finalized, not only the media but even supporters and lawyers all looked like 'enemies' to me."

Discrimination and prejudice

"When he got married, his partner's parents were against it."

Even after the marriage, some people went so far as to anonymously send his partner newspaper clippings about the incident."

The fear of execution

The condemned person is informed of their execution only on the morning of the day itself, and it is carried out immediately afterward. Families are never notified in advance; they only receive a call from the detention center after the execution has been carried out.

"In the daily news, the words 'death sentence confirmed' or 'execution carried out' always catch my eye."

"Two characters are the most frightening: the two that make up the word 'death penalty'."

"When a visit ends and we wave goodbye, I wonder: how much longer will I be able to wave like this? All I wish is that they stay alive and healthy. I want to die before they do."

Thoughts on the death penalty

"Before the incident, I took it for granted that the death penalty should exist. Now, no matter how serious the crime, the death penalty is the state committing murder. I believe it should not exist."

"As the family of an offender, I am against the death penalty. But when I think of the victims, I cannot say that so easily."

This material comes from a survey conducted by CrimelInfo with support from the Delegation of the European Union (PI/2021/428-535, 2022-2024).

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