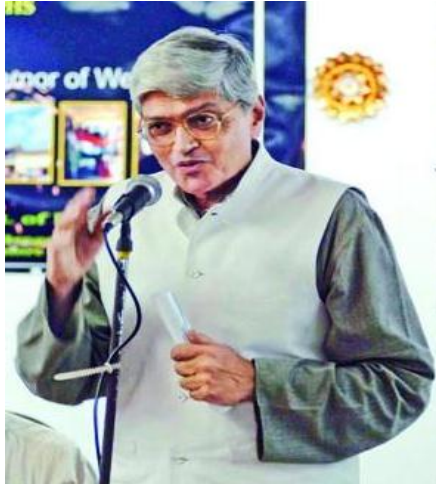


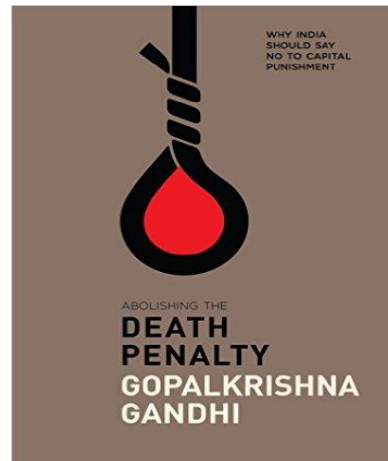
# Gandhiji’s grandson and DU alumnus Gopalkrishna Gandhi’s book launched January 2017

## Right to life and the moral case against *death penalty*

In his new book, Gopalkrishna Gandhi BA Eng Hons and MA Eng 1961 – 1966 turns every possible stone to attain a fine understanding of the history of death penalty in India, voicing the concerns of abolitionists, writes Keith A. Gomes.



alpix 0764



**Abolishing The Death Penalty**  
By Gopalkrishna Gandhi  
Publisher: Aleph Book Company

### Gopalkrishna Gandhi

BA Eng Hons	1964	St Stephen’s
MA Eng	1966	
Governor	West Bengal	2004 – 2009
Chairman	Governing	2011 - 2014
Board	Kalakshetra Foundation	Chennai
Secretary to the	President of India	1997 – 2000
Secretary to	Vice President of India	1985 – 1987
Ambassador of India	in Norway	2002 - 2004
Chairman		2012 – 2014
IIAS	Shimla	

Distinguished Professor in History and Politics  
Ashoka University

### Awards

- |   |  |      |
|---|--|------|
| 1 | Doctorate of Letters <i>honoris causa</i>    | 2001 |
| 2 | Ashutosh Mukherjee Gold Medal                | 2015 |
| 3 | Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Commemorative Award | 2016 |
| 4 | Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award           | 2016 |

### Lectures

- |   |                             |                           |                |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Alan Paton Memorial Lecture | South Africa              | 1997           |
| 2 | Nehru Memorial Lecture      | London                    | 2010           |
| 3 | Lecture on ‘Independence’   | The Scottish Parliament , | Edinburgh 2014 |

### Books

- |   |   |               |      |
|---|---|---------------|------|
| 1 | Dara Shukoh a Play in verse   | Banyan Book’s | 1993 |
| 2 | The Oxford India Gandhi – Essential Writings                                  | ed            | 2007 |
| 3 | Of a Certain age – Twenty Life – Sketches                                     |               | 2011 |
| 4 | My Dear Babu – Correspondence between C Rajagopalachari and Mohandas K Gandhi | ed            |      |
| 5 | The Tirukkural ( translated into English)                                     |               | 2015 |

Gopal’s book – length essay is published by Aleph Book Company. The essay is titled **Abolishing the Death Penalty: Why India Should Say No To Capital Punishment**, and deals with the distressing subject of where a state stands when it declares the time of one’s death as a punishment.

... the one critical statement within the text is, **“Birth and death happen; murder is committed”** .

The death penalty has been observed by many thinkers as “judicial murder”, and especially so by the law. But Gandhi turns to Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* and concludes murder as being nothing other than “a thing most foul”. His work divides itself into varieties as per its form; it can be considered an argument drawn at length, yet not seeming like an argument at all. It can be considered an encyclopedia of murder due to the prolific collection of data over the matter; he reaches with his palms to the writings of George Orwell, Thomas De Quincy and Albert Camus, the paintings on the death of Socrates, the final words of those implicated in the assassinations of Mahatma Gandhi and Abraham Lincoln, and the ideas of Bhagat Singh which border into political theory. It can also be understood as a congenial expression, in its attempts to reach a certain and stable truth as to what murder can truly imply when decreed by the body of the law.

*“ **Abolishing the Death Penalty** as a well - researched and voraciously analytical essay displays a movement from insight to foresight. From the beginning through the very heart of the text, all information is gathered and then it is observed, studied and analysed by Gandhi until he is able to provide a stable understanding to the reader”.*

adapted

14.01.2017 The Sunday Guardian

Click : [alumnus Gopalkrishna Gandhi awarded Lal Bahadur Shastri National Award 04.10.2016](#)

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