

UWI society debate favours death penalty

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THE death penalty has been proven to be effective in reducing crime.

This was the winning argument put forth by a pair of students from The University of the West Indies (The UWI) Debating Society as they participated in a debate on the topic yesterday.

Their arguments in favour of the death penalty were sufficient to earn the nod from the three-member judging panel.

The debate, hosted by the Faculty of Law, was held at The UWI St Augustine campus.

The pair, consisting of UWI students Adrian Edwards and Jadia Jn Pierre argued that crime has been on the rise in Trinidad and Tobago partly

because the death penalty has not been enforced.

Jn Pierre noted that the last time the death penalty was carried out in T&T was in 1999 with the hangings of Dole Chadee and his gang.

She said the murder toll in that year was 93.

Since then she said the murder toll has increased tremendously.

Jn Pierre said it was clear that prison was not

enough of a deterrent as prisoners are still able to communicate with criminal elements on the outside and issue directives.

She also argued that most murders in T&T were being committed by repeat offenders who, if they had been put to death in the first instance, would not have enough had the opportunity to kill again.

Social factors behind crime

Arguing against the death penalty, The UWI Faculty of Law team said the death penalty had absolutely no effect on crime reduction.

The team consisted of students Meshach Thornhill and Eden Corbin.

Corbin argued that crime was more than just murder and treason

which, by law, are the only two offences punishable by death.

He said as a result, the death penalty would not have an impact on crime as a whole.

Thornhill added that there were many social and economic factors that cause crime and these needed to be addressed in order to see any significant reduction in the crime rate.

Terrorist bodies: from 80 to 323

