

China opts for lethal injection

by UPI

BEIJING -- China plans to replace execution by firing squad with lethal injection, China Daily reported Thursday quoting a senior judicial official. Jiang Xingchang, vice-president of the Supreme People's Court, told the newspaper half the country's 404 intermediate people's courts, responsible for most of the executions in the country, already are using lethal injections. "It is considered more humane and will eventually be used in all intermediate people's courts," Jiang said. CNN reported China does not disclose details of its executions but cited human rights groups as saying more executions occur in China than any other country. Chinese laws in force since 1997 gives execution by lethal injection as an option. In a separate interview, China's Chief Justice Xiao Yang said China wants to follow the global trend of either abolishing capital punishment or strictly limiting its use. But he added it is not possible to abolish the punishment even for non-violent criminals in the near term because of people's belief in "an eye for an eye and a life for a life."

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