

Italian lifers ask for death penalty

by UPI

ROME -- A mobster serving a life sentence and more than 300 fellow prisoners have asked the president of Italy to restore the death penalty.

Carmelo Musumeci, 52, earned a law degree during his 17 years in prison after passing high-school graduation tests. But he told President Giorgio Napolitano that in prison his future will be the same as his past no matter what he does.

The letter was signed by 310 other prisoners serving life sentences, the BBC reported.

Italy abolished the death penalty immediately after World War II and now works for its international abolition. Under Italian law, prisoners with life sentences can enjoy short leaves from prison after 10 years of good conduct and conditional release after 26 years.

One senator has proposed abolishing the life sentence, replacing it with a maximum term of 30 years.

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