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## OFFENCES CARRYING DEATH PENALTY IN NIGERIA AND METHODS OF EXECUTION

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### ABSTRACT

This paper discusses various offences punishable with death in Nigeria and the main methods of execution respectively. It examines these offences under Nigeria's general criminal law principally in the criminal Code and the Sharia Penal Code. It commences with the offence of murder or culpable homicide punishable with death, treason, treachery, participating in a trial by ordeal resulting to death, instigating invasion of Nigeria, Hirabah (Brigandage or highway armed robbery, Zina (adultery or fornication, sodomy (Liwat), Baghe (rebellion or treason) to mention a few out of a long list of others. It also discusses three major methods of execution in Nigeria which include – firing squad, hanging and stoning, strengthening the discussion with relevant judicial authorities where apposite. It concludes that the most recent argument is that death penalty is a threat to the right to life, hence global trends now favour the punishment theories of reformation and rehabilitation and that Nigeria should join the band wagon and toe the trend pursuant to the concrete, cogent-compelling and convincing reasons advanced against death penalty.

*Keywords:* Capital Punishment, Homicide, Treason, Law, Human Rights.