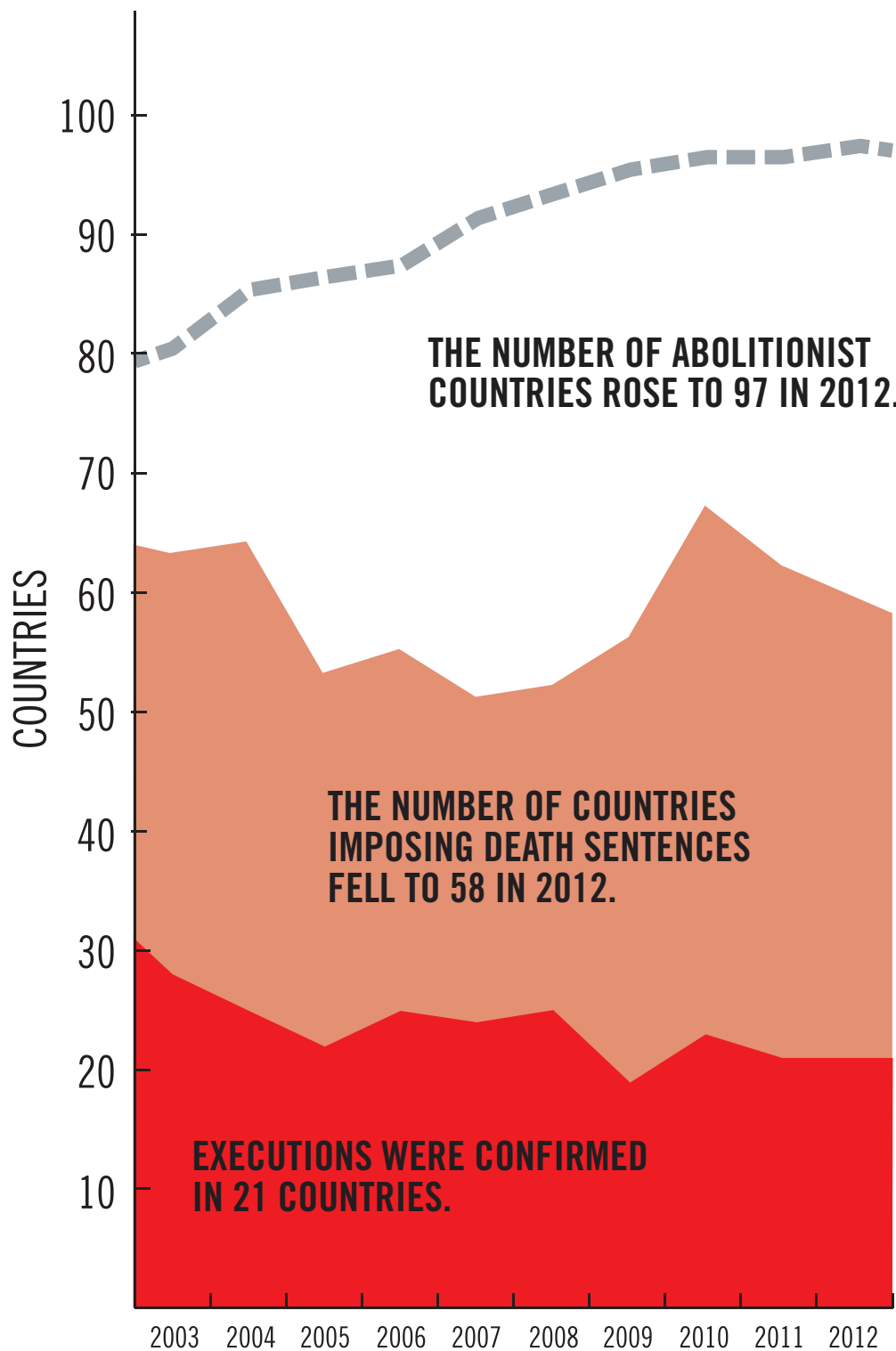


DEATH PENALTY TRENDS 2003-2012



The death penalty was completely removed from legislation in Latvia, making it the 97th country abolitionist for all crimes worldwide. Ten years ago in 2003, this figure stood at 80. In total, 140 countries have abolished the death penalty in law or practice.

At least 1,722 people were sentenced to death in 58 countries in 2012. This is a decrease from 2011, when at least 1,923 people were known to have been sentenced in 63 countries worldwide, and a reduction for the second year running (2010: 2,024 death sentences in 67 countries).

In 2012 Amnesty International recorded executions in 21 countries. It cannot be excluded that executions took place in Egypt and Syria, though none could be confirmed. This figure reflects the significant overall decline of the death penalty from a decade earlier, when 28 countries carried out executions in 2003.