



International Commission  
against the Death Penalty

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**Founding Member**

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(1939-2014)

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**Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty:  
Mission to the Republic of Korea**

A delegation of the International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) led by its President Judge Navi Pillay visited Seoul, Republic of Korea (South Korea or RoK) between 19 and 21 November. The delegates included the former President of the International Criminal Court and eminent professor Judge Song Sang-Hyun, ICDP Executive Director Asunta Vivo and ICDP Director of Policy Rajiv Narayan. The delegation held meetings with key stakeholders including senior officials of the Ministry of Justice, Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyeong-wha, Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission of Korea Lee Sung-ho, Cardinal Andrew Yeom, Chair of the Legislative and Judiciary Committee of the National Assembly Representative Kweon Song-dong, Representative Lee Sang-min and members of the diplomatic community and key civil society organizations to discuss issues related to the situation of the death penalty in South Korea. The delegation participated in the screening of the documentary, “A Question on the Death Penalty”, which was held in the National Assembly on 21 November.

“We congratulate South Korea for not having carried out a single execution in the last 20 years. The whole world looks at South Korea as the beacon in the region to take the lead on abolition because RoK already has such a record on human rights. It is a surprise to me that South Korea is not among the 105 countries that have abolished the death penalty. ICDP calls on authorities to take steps towards ending the practice of capital punishment and consolidating the fundamental human right: the right to life,” said ICDP President Judge Navi Pillay.

Judge Navi Pillay  
President  
International Commission  
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## Background

Composed of 21 Commissioners, who are persons of high international standing from all regions of the world, ICDP acts with total independence and neutrality and works under its President Judge Navi Pillay.

ICDP opposes the death penalty under any circumstances believing that it violates the right to life enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Commission promotes the abolition of capital punishment in law in those States that observe a de facto moratorium on the use of the death penalty and promotes moratoriums on executions in states that rarely use the death penalty.

ICDP works with the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, governments and nongovernmental organizations to further the abolition of capital punishment worldwide.

The work of ICDP is supported by a diverse group of 19 States from all regions of the world that are committed to the abolition of the death penalty. Its secretariat is based in Madrid.