



International Commission  
against the Death Penalty

**President**

Federico Mayor

**Members**

Giuliano Amato

Louise Arbour

Robert Badinter

Mohammed Bedjaoui

Ruth Dreifuss

Michèle Duvivier  
Pierre-Louis

Hanne Sophie Greve

Asma Jilani Jahangir

Ioanna Kuçuradi

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Ibrahim Najjar

Bill Richardson

**Honorary Member**

José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero

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Geneva, 16 October 2014

**Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty:  
ICDP Commissioners participate in events commemorating the 12th  
World Day against the Death Penalty**

ICDP Commissioners observed the World Day against the Death Penalty by participating in events organised in Geneva, Beirut and Madrid.

On 10 October, the World Day against the Death Penalty, ICDP Commissioners Ms Ruth Dreifuss and Ms Hanne Sophie Greve met with ten members of the UN Human Rights Committee led by its Chairperson Sir Nigel Rodley at Palais Wilson in Geneva to discuss issues related to the abolition of the death penalty and areas of mutual cooperation. Commissioner Greve also met with permanent missions based in Geneva.

In Beirut, Commissioner Ibrahim Najjar participated in a Conference which discussed the abolition of the death penalty in Lebanon. The event was organized by the French Embassy in partnership with the European Union, the “Association Justice et Miséricorde” and the Lebanese coalition for the abolition of the death penalty. The participants included the Ambassador of France Patrice Paoli, the Presidents of the Bar Associations of Beirut and Paris, Georges Jreij and Pierre-Olivier Sur, Head of the Political Section of the EU delegation in Lebanon, Maciej Golubiewski and the founding President of the “Association Justice et Miséricorde”, Father Hadi Aya.

Earlier on 9 October 2014, Commissioner Hanne Sophie Greve participated in a panel at an event organised by the EU Delegation and the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations (UN) in Geneva titled “Justice that kills – the Death Penalty in the 21st Century”, to commemorate the 12<sup>th</sup> World Day against the Death Penalty. ICDP Commissioner Greve was joined by other panellists including UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Mr Ivan Simonovic, the Chairperson of the UN Human Rights Committee Sir Nigel Rodley, former District Attorney of Los Angeles County (USA) Mr. Gil Garcetti, and Dr. Mai Sato from the Centre for Criminology in Oxford University. Speakers included the Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of Italy in Geneva, Mr. Maurizio Enrico Serra, the Chargé d'affaires of the Delegation of the European Union in Geneva Mr. Dominic Porter and Ambassador Baudelaire Ndong Ella, President of the Human Rights Council and Permanent Representative of Gabon to the UN in Geneva opened the event. The UN Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon gave a video message in support of the abolition of the death penalty at the event.

Earlier on 8 October, ICDP President Federico Mayor participated in an event organized in Madrid by the International Academic Network against capital punishment and the University of Castilla-La Mancha on the Commemoration of World Day Against the Death Penalty at the Real Academia de Jurisprudencia y Legislación, in Madrid.



“Political leadership is crucial in ensuring that the world moves away from the death penalty,” said ICDP President Federico Mayor. In December 2014, member-states will vote at the UN General Assembly for a resolution calling on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty. It also marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

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**Background**

ICDP was founded in Madrid in October 2010. ICDP is currently composed of 14 persons of high international standing from all regions of the world who act with total independence and neutrality and work under its President Mr Federico Mayor.

ICDP opposes the death penalty under any circumstances believing that it violates the right to life enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. ICDP 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. In states that continue to carry out executions ICDP urges strict adherence to international standards.

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 the ICDP is supported by a diverse group of 18 states from all regions of the world that are committed to abolition of the death penalty. Its secretariat is based in Geneva.