



**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

Navanethem (Navi) Pillay

Ibrahim Najjar

Bill Richardson

Horacio Verbitsky

**Honorary Member**

José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero

**Founding Member**

Rodolfo Mattarollo  
(1939-2014)

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## **Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: USA mission**

A delegation of the International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) consisting of former UN High Commissioner of Human Rights and ICDP Vice President Navi Pillay, former President of Switzerland and ICDP Vice President Ruth Dreifuss, former Prime Minister of Haiti ICDP Commissioner Michele Duvivier and former Governor of US state of New Mexico and ICDP Commissioner Bill Richardson visited New York between 14 and 16 May 2017. During their visit, the ICDP delegation met US Governors and Attorney Generals on 15 May 2017 and discussed the situation of the death penalty in their respective states and issues related to possible steps towards ending the practice of capital punishment in the United States (US). The interactive dialogue discussed possible strategies noting the complexity and uniqueness of the state of capital punishment in the US.

The ICDP delegation also met diplomats from countries that retain the death penalty and discussed the situations of capital punishment in their respective States. During the course of the discussion, they highlighted steps taken by their Governments to reduce the scope of the death penalty including the possibility to establish an official moratorium on the death penalty, as an initial step, towards eventual abolition.

The ICDP delegation met with senior officials of the United Nations based in New York and discussed and identified areas of mutual interest in the area of furthering the scope of abolition of the death penalty.

The delegation also met with experts and representatives from leading international and domestic civil society organizations in an interactive session to discuss the situation of capital punishment in the US and internationally and identified new ideas and strategies to further the discourse of abolition of the death penalty.

On 16 May, the ICDP delegation held an interactive session with Ambassadors of Member States of the Support Group of the International Commission against the Death Penalty.

“I commend the work of the ICDP delegation and join their call on the Governments of the US states that retain capital punishment to take steps to end this cruel, inhuman and degrading practice. By doing so, they will ensure that the US will join the 104 countries, who have



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abolished the death penalty for all crimes having recognized that modern justice systems can protect the public from crime without the irrevocable and cruel nature of the death penalty and the constant risk of executing an innocent person. These nations have recognized that state killing is wrong and fails to deter crime more effectively than other punishments. We believe that it is time for the US to abolish capital punishment and such a step will greatly add momentum towards a world free of the death penalty," said ICDP President Federico Mayor.

Federico Mayor  
President  
of the International Commission  
against the Death Penalty

**Background**

Composed of 19 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 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. 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 18 States from all regions of the world that are committed to the abolition of the death penalty. Its secretariat is based in Madrid.