



Dear all,
Good morning

I am happy to witness and say a word about the brilliant results and achievements the ICDP has delivered over the past ten years

One cannot but praise the professionalism and the resilience of what our Secretariat and Commissioners have been able to accomplish, promoting the culture of life and the abolition of the death penalty around the world, in Asia, Latin America, the USA and Africa.

This has been a unique opportunity for me.

I was lucky to meet icons and prestigious minds, from Spain, France, Norway, Switzerland, Algeria, Belgium, Latin America, South Africa Mongolia, Central Europe.

ICDP is a microcosm, where common grounds are strongly tied to humanism, culture of freedom, preservation of the dignity of the human being. A place where all of us are in a divine and indivisible oneness without any distinction between the religion or the color of our skin.

It was not easy to maintain the goal of abolishing the death penalty in a steady momentum, especially in some countries in which religion or dictatorship, tradition or governance are reluctant to understand that the abolition of the death penalty is a civilized path for democracy and consecration of our human dignity.

In the Middle East, there is still plenty to work and accomplish; that requires our undivided effort towards the political regimes that persevere in their autocracy. Nevertheless, we have to drive them towards the abolition of the death penalty, in the very way that slavery was abolished decades ago.

We should be advocating at least a “de facto” abolition and promote a culture of life and openness. I am thinking of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt, Iran, Syria, and many other states.

Even in Lebanon, where the de facto abolition was consecrated formally since 2008, we have to always level up between a culture of unpunishment and pardon, between the criminality and the modernization of our penitential system.

The fight for the abolition should never mean a wild card to the law of jungle. And its implementation should not give a license to kill for extrajudicial grounds nor assassination, even under the auspices of fighting terrorism or deterring drug dealers or money laundering.

For the time being and the tenth anniversary of the ICDP let's pray and wish that we all deserve a permanent commitment in the path of spreading a culture of peace and dignity.