



Review

2010

2012

International Commission
against the Death Penalty (ICDP)
Review 2010-2012

Design: Industry Branding

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against the Death Penalty
Secretariat of the International
Commission against the Death Penalty

ICDP
Rue Rothschild 20
1202 Geneva
Switzerland

www.icomdp.org
Tel: + 41 22 908 44 22

26 MONTHS

7 October 2010 – 31 December 2012

15 VISITS

France, Gambia, Italy, Japan, Morocco (twice),
Rwanda, Spain (three times), Switzerland,
Tajikistan, Tunisia, USA (California and New York)

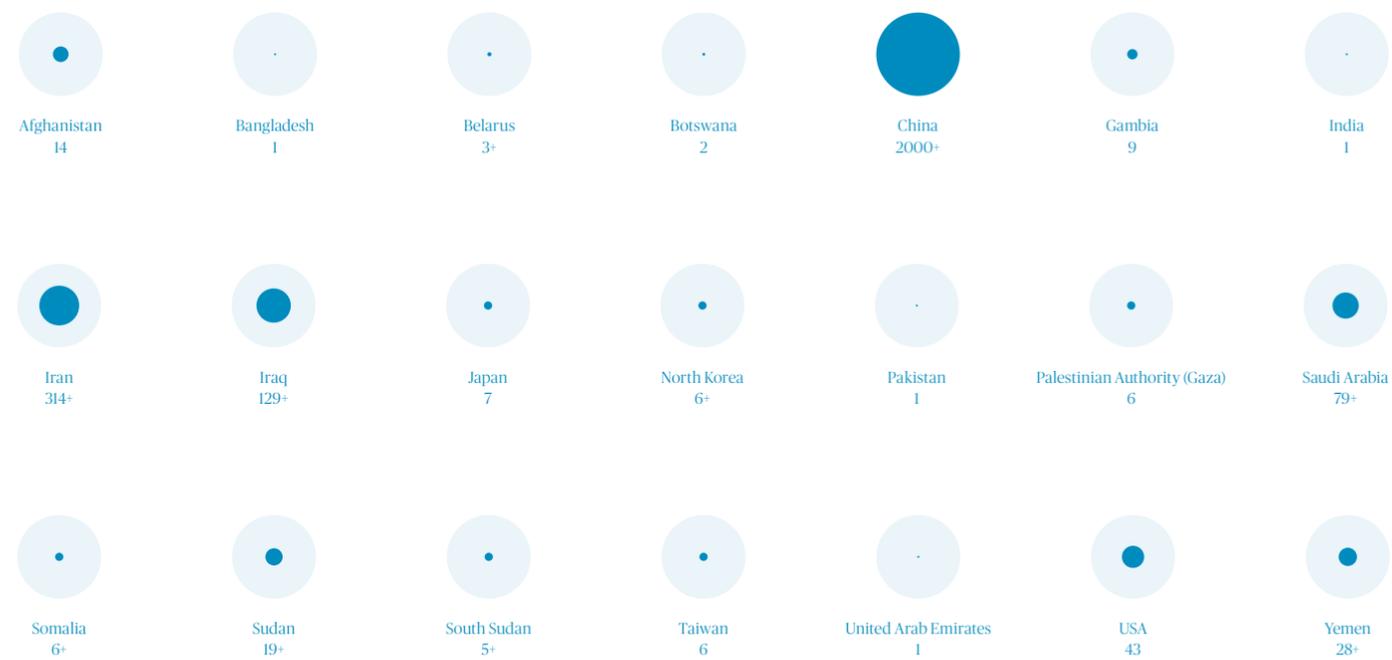
14 MEMBERS

Mr Giuliano Amato, Ms Louise Arbour,
Mr Robert Badinter, Mr Mohammed Bedjaoui, Ms
Ruth Dreifuss, Ms Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis,
Ms Asma Jahangir, Ms Ioanna Kuçuradi, Ms
Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Mr Rodolfo Mattarollo,
Mr Federico Mayor, Mr Ibrahim Najjar, Mr Bill
Richardson, Mr José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero

2 ABOLISHES

Gabon (2010) and Latvia (2012)

2012



Countries and the amount of executions that were carried out in 2012. Source: Amnesty International report "Death Sentences and Executions 2012"

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Message from the President

This report describes the International Commission against the Death Penalty, its role, its activities, its achievements and the context in which it has been working since its creation on 7 October 2010 until 31 December 2012.

“The death penalty does not make the world a safer place. There exists no conclusive evidence that it deters crime more effectively than other punishments.

The most worrying fact about the death penalty, however, is the possibility of executing an innocent person.

No matter how developed a justice system might be, it will always remain susceptible to human failure and, therefore, it runs the risk of committing irrevocable and irreparable damage.”

Federico Mayor

President, International Commission against the Death Penalty

The global trend towards abolition of the death penalty has gathered pace dramatically in recent years. Nearly 50 years ago only 16 countries had abolished the death penalty for all crimes. Today, according to the United Nations (UN), some 150 countries have rejected the death penalty or do not carry out executions. As recently as December 2012, the UN General Assembly called for a moratorium on executions with the aim of abolishing the death penalty. The call for repeal of capital punishment is no longer the preoccupation of a few countries – there is now an international movement working for its global abolition.

Abolition of the death penalty is supported by states from all regions in the world regardless of political system, religion, culture or tradition. These nations have accepted that state killing is wrong and fails to deter crime. They recognize that modern justice systems must protect the public from crime but without the inherent risks of executing the innocent, and the cruelty of executions.

But we must not forget that billions still live in countries which retain capital punishment and thousands of prisoners continued to be executed every year or remain under sentence of death. It is against this background that the International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) was launched in Madrid in October 2010.

ICDP is an independent body composed of 14 personalities of international prestige and experience in human rights, and supported by a diverse group of 16 countries from all world regions. ICDP opposes capital punishment in all situations, and urges the immediate establishment of a universal moratorium on executions as a step towards total abolition of the death penalty.

Since its creation, ICDP has undertaken a number of activities to support the abolition of capital punishment – including missions to Japan, Tajikistan, Tunisia and the USA. A number of meetings have also been organized, such as a roundtable of experts to review challenges to abolition, and a conference on the Greater Caribbean. Numerous letters and statements have been issued, in particular about individuals at imminent risk of execution. Working relationships have been established with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Council of Europe, the European Union, the UN, the UK All Party Parliamentary Group on the Abolition of the Death Penalty as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academics working on the abolition of the death penalty.

In the coming years, ICDP will build on these experiences and expertise. It will focus attention on abolition of the death penalty in Africa, Asia,

the Greater Caribbean, the Middle East and the USA. It will continue to strengthen its work so that its activities influence and contribute to the global movement that is working for the eventual abolition of capital punishment.

Once seen solely as a matter of criminal justice, states' use of the death penalty is now an international concern and part of the mainstream human rights agenda. ICDP's work should be seen as a contribution by influential and respected voices of international standing towards creating a death penalty free world.

Federico Mayor

President of the International Commission against the Death Penalty

About ICDP

The death penalty violates the right to life – the most basic of all human rights – and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. It is frequently used in an unfair, arbitrary and discriminatory way – sometimes after unfair legal proceedings and even after torture or duress.

Key facts about ICDP

- It was founded in October 2010 in Madrid to promote and support abolition of the death penalty. It was established as a result of an initiative of the government of Spain to campaign against the death penalty throughout the world.
- It works to achieve abolition of the death penalty and complements actions of the UN and other international and regional organizations, governments, civil society and NGOs that are working towards abolition of the death penalty.
- It is politically independent of governments, allowing it to engage with a number of countries around the world about their use of capital punishment.
- It is chaired by a President and meets twice a year to discuss strategies and plan its work, including country visits.
- It is supported and funded by a geographically diverse group of 16 countries from all world regions that are committed to the abolition of the death penalty. This Support Group is composed of: Algeria, Argentina, Dominican Republic, France, Italy, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Mongolia, Norway, the Philippines, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Togo and Turkey.
- The Support Group carries out its activities under the coordination of a rotating yearly presidency.
- A Geneva-based Secretariat organizes the work of ICDP.



Who we are

ICDP is an independent body composed of 14 high-profile Commissioners working for the total abolition of the death penalty. The ICDP, an initiative of the government of Spain, is led by its President, Federico Mayor. These eminent individuals include former presidents, prime ministers, government ministers, senior United Nations (UN) officials, a former US state governor, a former judge and president of the International Court of Justice, a senior judge and a leading academic. It is supported by a diverse group of 16 states.

These Commissioners represent all world regions – demonstrating that abolition of the death penalty is a global concern and not the cause of a particular region. They do not represent their country and they act with independence in their decision-making. ICDP's added value lies in the importance of its members. Each Commissioner has expertise in international law and human rights and is committed to the global abolition of capital punishment. Their experience and knowledge enable them to address politically sensitive issues and engage with senior officials from countries where the death penalty is still used. Their knowledge, influence and broad geographical representation provide ICDP with a high profile in the international arena.

What we do

ICDP opposes the death penalty in all situations, and urges the immediate establishment of a universal moratorium on executions in all world regions with a view to total abolition.

ICDP's mandate is to promote, complement and support global abolition of the death penalty. Its main objectives are to:

- Promote abolition in law in countries which apply a moratorium on use of the death penalty.
- Promote the establishment of a moratorium on the death penalty in all world regions, as a step towards total abolition.
- Intervene in specific cases – in particular where imposition of capital punishment is prohibited under international law, such as in the case of juvenile offenders, pregnant women, the mentally ill, or where international death penalty safeguards are violated.

How ICDP works

- Intervenes with high representatives and personalities in specific countries.
- Complements actions calling for repeal of capital punishment along with representatives of intergovernmental organizations and NGOs.
- Undertakes visits to countries to engage with high-ranking officials.
- Issues appeals and statements – in particular where individuals are at imminent risk of execution.
- Organizes public events including discussion panels, conferences, side-events at international forums on various aspects of abolition of the death penalty.
- Participates in conferences, seminars and campaigns to mobilize public opinion for abolition of the death penalty.
- Disseminates information by publishing reports and presenting papers at international forums.
- Promotes intellectual and artistic works that support abolition of the death penalty.

The context in which we work

For many years, progress towards abolition of capital punishment was slow and the cause had few champions. When the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted in 1948 very few states had abolished the death penalty. In 1948 abolition of the death penalty was the concern of a small minority of states. Sixty-five years later the situation is very different. According to the UN some 150 out of the 193 Member States of the UN have abolished the death penalty in law or do not execute. Opposition to the death penalty is not exclusive to any particular region, political system, religion, culture or tradition.

As of December 2012, 105 states had abolished the death penalty in law – 97 for all crimes in civil and military law, and eight for ordinary crimes leaving it possible to sentence a person to death, for example, under military law.

Among the states that still retain the death penalty in law, 41 have not executed anyone in the past 10 years or have announced a moratorium.

As of 31 December 2012, 75 states have ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at abolition of the death penalty. Under the UN Universal Periodic Review Process a number of states indicated that they were considering ratifying this Protocol.

Madrid

Launch of ICDP

OCTOBER 2010

Led by its President Frederico Mayor, ICDP works to abolish the death penalty worldwide.

First International Conference on the Death Penalty in the Greater Caribbean

OCTOBER 2011

Meeting co-organized by ICDP to develop strategies to support abolition of the death penalty in the Greater Caribbean region.

Roundtable on the Death Penalty

OCTOBER 2012

A review held to identify developments on capital punishment and legal and political challenges and opportunities for the coming five years.

FACTS

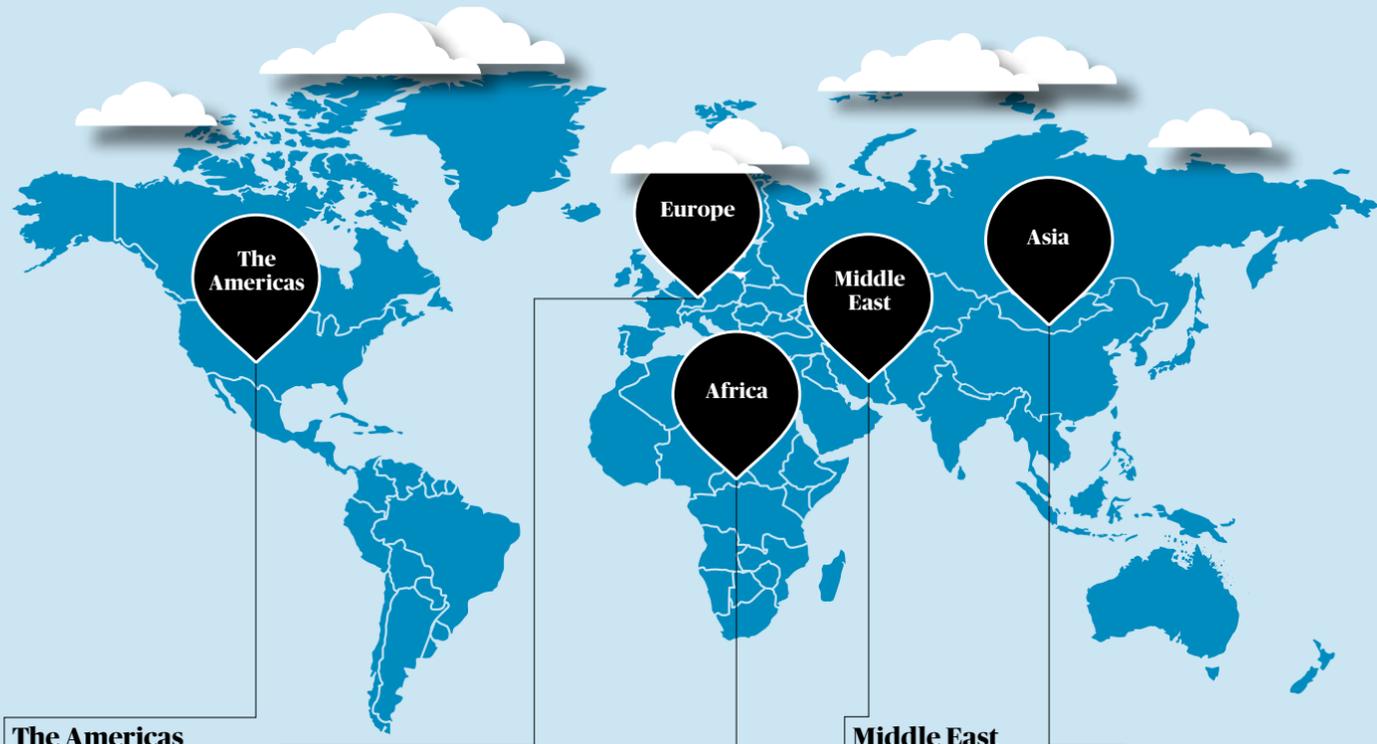
The last judicial executions in Spain took place in September 1975. Three years later the death penalty was banned, however with a get-out clause for the military. The total abolition under all circumstances took place in 1995.

Right image: Rooftops from the Gran Via, Madrid.
Credit: Nicola Margaret, Getty.

Below image: ICDP members meeting with the President of the Spanish Government Mr Rodriguez Zapatero, Palace of Moncloa.



Global concern for abolition



The Americas
Almost free of executions – only the USA continues to execute on a regular basis but even in the USA the trend is towards fewer executions, with an increasing number of states repealing death penalty laws. The Caribbean region remained free of executions and the number of death sentences imposed has declined since the abolition of the death penalty in large parts of the region.

Europe
European countries, with the exception of Belarus, have abolished the death penalty; this has been reinforced by its inclusion in European treaties. Neither the 2004 Madrid bombing, nor the 2005 London attacks, nor Anders Breivik's 2011 mass killings in Oslo and Utøya in Norway have led to the reintroduction of capital punishment.

Africa
Largely free of executions, with only five countries (Botswana, The Gambia, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan) reported to have carried out executions in 2012. The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, established by the African Charter, is also considering a binding protocol aimed at abolishing the death penalty.

Middle East
The Arab Spring awakened hopes for greater respect for human rights including positive action against the death penalty. While a number of states have not carried out executions there is little progress towards legal abolition of the death penalty. According to Amnesty International there has been a gradual decline in death sentences in some countries but an increase in executions in Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

Asia
Capital punishment is still used in several states although the use of the death penalty is the subject of debate in a number of countries. The death penalty is used in violation of international standards and capital crimes often fail to meet the threshold of 'most serious crimes'. Moreover, many countries fail to release information.

Positive developments in 2012

America
The state of Connecticut abolished the death penalty.



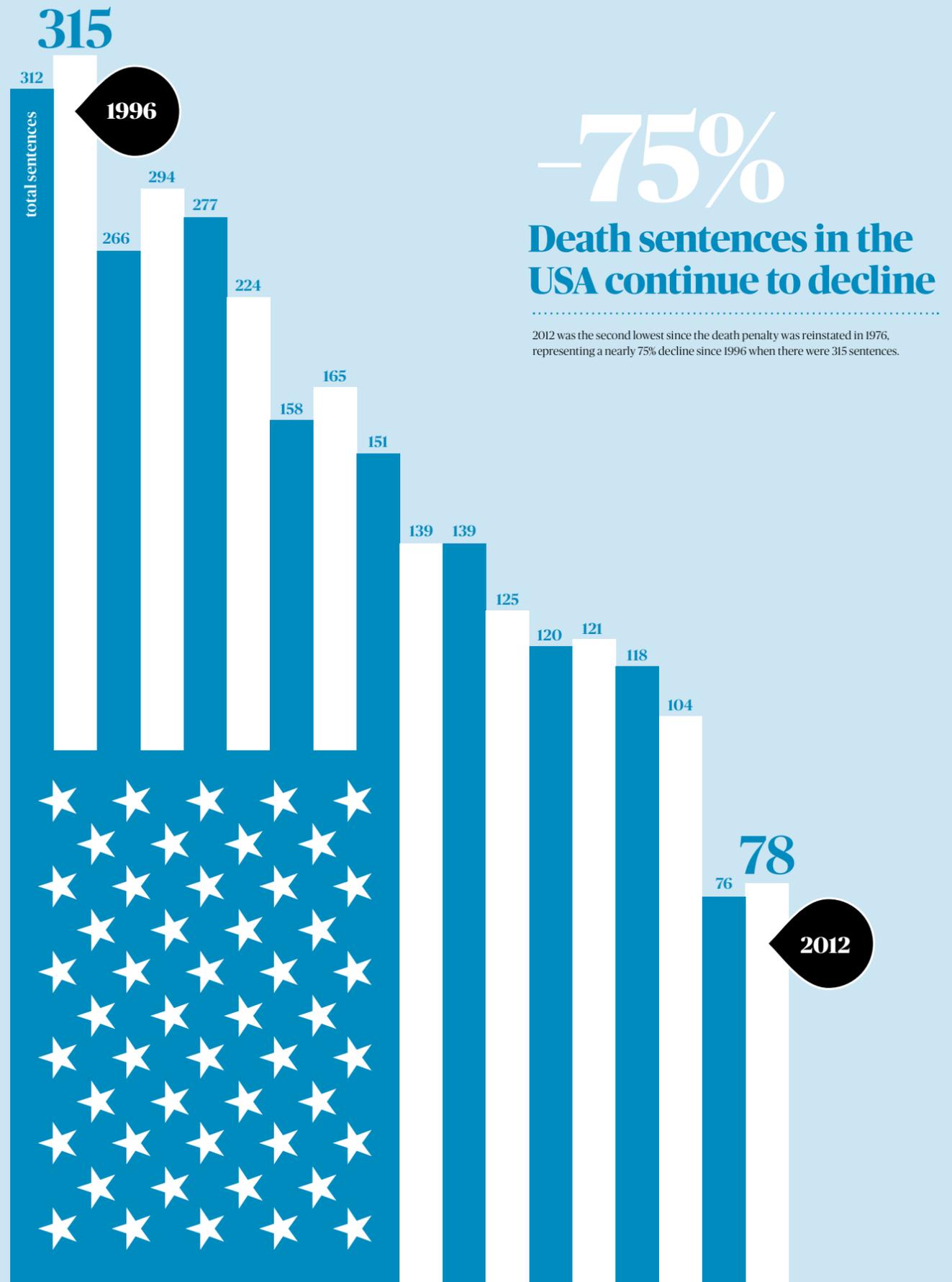
Benin and Mongolia
They ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty; they are taking steps to repeal capital punishment in their national laws.



United Nations
There was an increase in support for the UN General Assembly resolution calling for a moratorium on executions adopted in December 2012.

111 in favour
41 against
34 abstentions

1ST TIME
Tunisia voted in favour and Indonesia abstained.



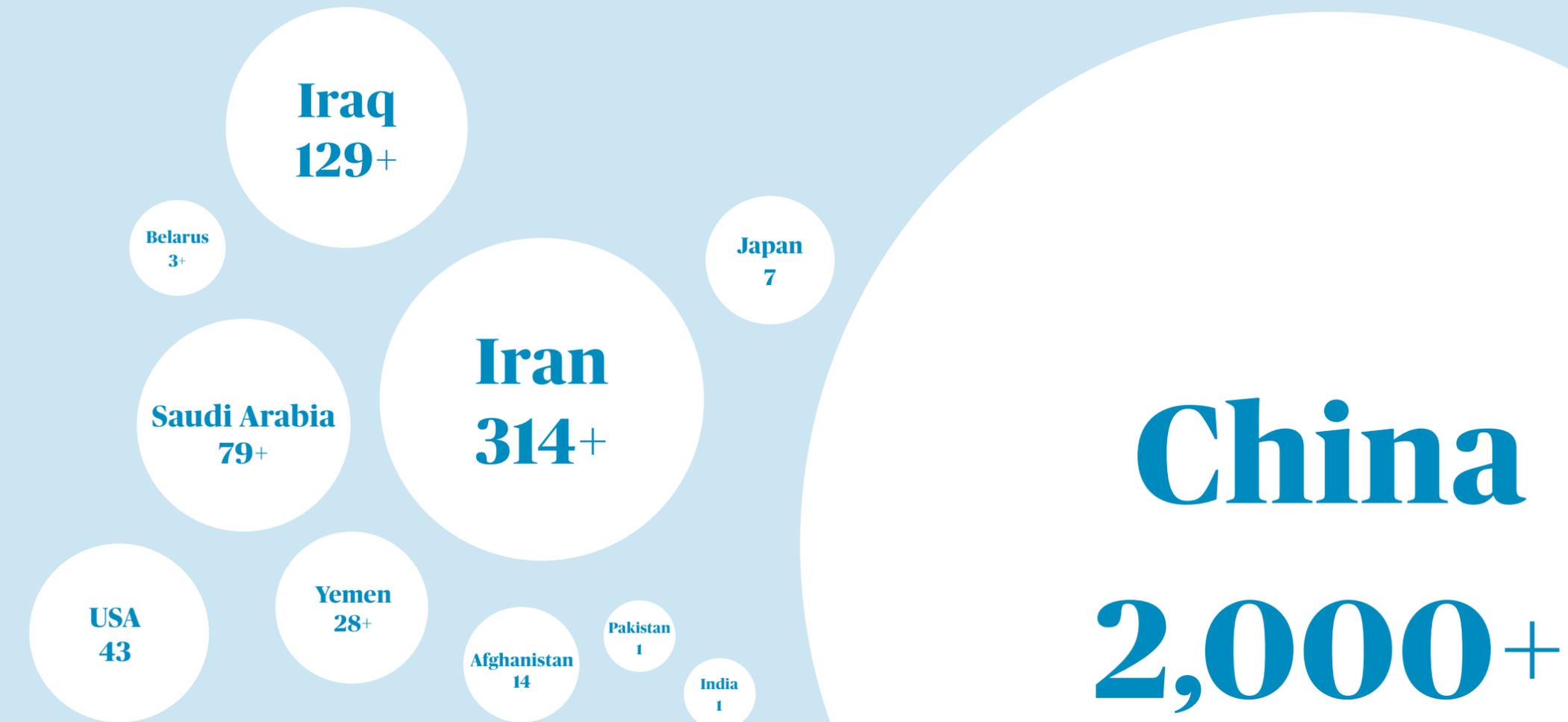
Notable setbacks in 2012

Nevertheless, despite progress towards abolition, some 20 countries between 2010 and 2012 regularly carried out executions. Most executions took place in China, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the USA and Yemen. Furthermore, thousands of prisoners remain under sentence of death in retentionist countries around the world.

Since 2007 the UN General Assembly has called on states which retain capital punishment to establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty. A moratorium on executions by UN Member States is a step in the right direction – but it is not a substitute for legal abolition of the death penalty. This was tragically illustrated in The Gambia when – despite a 27-year de facto moratorium on executions – nine prisoners were executed by firing squad in August 2012. In countries which retain capital punishment, there is often a lack of official public information about its application, in particular the number of death sentences, the crimes for which people have been sentenced to death and the number of executions carried out. This lack of transparency impedes a full debate on the death penalty. It is important that the public is given full information, including statistics, so that an informed debate on capital punishment can be held.

- **Afghanistan** executed 14 prisoners.
- **Belarus** executed at least 3 persons.
- **China** is believed to be executing more people than the total of all other states carrying out the death penalty. As of December 2012, China had not published official figures on the number of executions that it carries out every year. However, since 2007, because of legal reforms and the introduction of safeguards, it is believed that the number of executions may have fallen to about 2,000 a year.
- **India** Mohammed Ajmal Amir Kasab was hanged in November 2012 for his role in the Mumbai attack in 2008. This was India's first execution since 2004.
- In **Iran** there were at least 314 executions. Most of those executed were sentenced on drug-related crimes.
- **Iraq** carried out at least 129 executions following trials which fail to comply with basic fair trial standards.
- **Japan** hanged seven prisoners after a period of 20 months without executions.
- **Pakistan** hanged a soldier in November 2012. This was the first execution since 2008.
- **Saudi Arabia** carried out at least 79 public executions.

- In the **USA** despite a steady decline in the use of the death penalty, 77 people were sentenced to death in 2012. According to the Washington-based Death Penalty Information Center this figure is the second lowest total since capital punishment was reinstated in 1976. The number of executions in 2012 was 43, the same as in 2011. Seventy-five per cent of executions took place in the US states of Arizona, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas. On 6 November 2012, Californian voters decided by a narrow margin against Proposition 34 and retained the death penalty. The USA states of Connecticut, Illinois, New Jersey, New Mexico and New York have all abolished the death penalty in the last 10 years. Other states such as Colorado, Maryland and New Hampshire appear to be moving closer to abolition.
- **Yemen** carried out at least 28 executions and two of those executed are believed to have been juvenile offenders. According to Human Rights Watch, 22 individuals are under sentence of death despite evidence that they were under 18 years of age at the time of the alleged crimes.



In the USA, as well as in other countries, the death penalty is often imposed on the most marginalized members of society. Individuals coming from the poorer sectors of society are at far greater risk of being sentenced to death than a wealthy individual who committed a similar crime, and because they are poor they often fail to get good legal representation at their trial.

Tajikistan

Country Mission

MAY 2011

Commissioner Ruth Dreifuss visited Tajikistan in May 2011 and met with senior government officials and participated in the "International Conference on Central Asia without Death Penalty".

FACTS

There has been an official moratorium on executions since 2004 and the government has supported resolutions at the UN General Assembly for a moratorium on the death penalty. The government has taken steps to reduce the number of capital offences and in 2010 the President established a Working Group to consider repeal of the death penalty.

Right image: Mountains in Tajikistan. Credit: Andy Hall, Oxfam.

Below image: Ruth Dreifuss was accompanied by Christian Durisch, Adviser of the ICDP Secretariat.





October 2010
 SPAIN: ICDP members meeting with the President of the Spanish Government Mr Rodriguez Zapatero, Palace of Moncloa.



March 2011
 SWITZERLAND: Meeting ICDP Member Ruth Dreifuss with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay.



October 2011
 SPAIN: Amb. Mattarollo during the First Caribbean meeting.



April 2011
 FRANCE: Meeting President of ICDP Mr Mayor with the Commissioner for Human Rights Mr. Thomas Hammarberg.



April-May 2011
 TAJIKISTAN: Ruth Dreifuss was accompanied by Christian Durisch, Adviser of the ICDP Secretariat.



June 2011
 MOROCCO: Meeting of President of ICDP Mr. Mayor with Mr Driss El Yasami, President of the National Committee for Human Rights.

What we accomplished

What we have accomplished since we were established: our activities and achievements 2010-2012.

“Experience has shown that as a new generation grows up with no expectation that criminals will be punished by death, the majority come to reject it as a ‘barbarity of the past’. It is important also to go further than the repetition of the mantra that ‘capital punishment is not a deterrent’ by confronting sceptics with the fact that even if it were shown that it could have a marginal deterrent effect, this could only be achieved by high rates of execution, mandatorily and speedily enforced. This would increase the probability of innocent or wrongfully convicted persons being executed...”

Roger Hood
 Professor Emeritus of Criminology,
 University of Oxford

Launch of ICDP OCTOBER 2010, SPAIN

On 7 October 2010, ICDP was established in Madrid. The newly appointed members of the Commission met with representatives of civil society to discuss their objectives and strategies to promote global abolition of the death penalty. The meeting was led by ICDP President Federico Mayor, former Director-General of UNESCO.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights MARCH 2011, SWITZERLAND

Ruth Dreifuss, former President of Switzerland and Member of ICDP, met with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, at Geneva's Palais Wilson. ICDP's delegation briefed the High Commissioner Pillay on ICDP's work and highlighted the importance of joining forces to promote abolition of the death penalty across the world.

Council of Europe APRIL 2011, FRANCE

ICDP's President Federico Mayor gave a keynote speech at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, highlighting the risk of executing the innocent and the lack of conclusive evidence that the death penalty deters serious crime. He applauded international progress but stressed the need to intensify efforts to achieve global abolition of the death penalty. The President of the ICDP also met with the Commissioner for Human Rights Mr. Thomas Hammarberg and the President of the Parliamentary Assembly Mr Mevlut Cavusoglu.

African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights APRIL-MAY 2011, GAMBIA

The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. ICDP Secretary-General Asunta Vivó met with Zainabou Sylvie Kayitesi, Chairperson of the Working Group on the Death Penalty and member of the African Commission, to discuss future cooperation on the abolition of capital punishment in Africa.

Mission to Tajikistan MAY 2011, TAJIKISTAN

ICDP Commissioner Ruth Dreifuss undertook a mission to Tajikistan, meeting with senior government officials and key actors from civil society and to participate in the International Conference "Central Asia without Death Penalty". The mission contributed to a positive debate on capital punishment and received broad media coverage, raising public awareness about the issues. Following a recent meeting in Geneva with senior officials from Tajikistan, ICDP plans to visit the country again in 2013.

Morocco JUNE 2011, MOROCCO

ICDP President Federico Mayor met with government authorities in Rabat and addressed the opening ceremony of the General Assembly of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty.

**May-June 2012**

JAPAN: Gov Bill Richardson met with European Ambassadors and the Delegation of the EU. Photo by: V.J.Luna, EU, 2012.

**July 2012**

NEW YORK: UN Headquarters.

**October 2012**

SPAIN: ICDP Members at the roundtable in Madrid.

**December 2012**

ITALY: Federico Mayor and Giuliano Amato in Padua. Photo: Human Rights Centre of Padua.

First International Conference on the Death Penalty in the Greater Caribbean

OCTOBER 2011, SPAIN

The First International Conference on the Death Penalty in the Greater Caribbean took place in Madrid, Spain, to develop strategies to support abolition of the death penalty in the Greater Caribbean region. ICDP President Federico Mayor and ICDP Commissioner Rodolfo Mattarollo gave keynote speeches. The conference was co-organized by ICDP and attended by human rights activists, NGOs, academics and organizations and individuals representing the Caribbean's cultural diversity.

African Conference against the Death Penalty

OCTOBER 2011, RWANDA

At the African Conference against the Death Penalty, Rwanda's capital city Kigali hosted the Regional Conference on the Abolition and/or Moratorium on the Execution of the Death Penalty. Former Prime Minister of Haiti and member of the Commission Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis chaired the first session, which focused on the death penalty and public opinion. The conference was organized by the government of Rwanda and the Italy-based NGO Hands off

Cain, with the support of the European Union, African Union and World Coalition against the Death Penalty. Its aim was to launch a major debate on abolition in the African continent, and a moratorium on executions.

Country Mission to the USA

APRIL 2012, CALIFORNIA

ICDP visited the USA state of California to support those campaigning for Proposition 34, an initiative that would have replaced capital punishment with life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. During the mission, ICDP's delegation led by Secretary-General Asunta Vivó met senior state officials and lawyers involved in capital cases, spoke in two public events, and visited San Quentin State Prison where the delegation discussed criminal justice issues with staff members and prisoners.

Country Mission to Japan

MAY-JUNE 2012, TOKYO

ICDP visited Japan from 30 May to 2 June 2012 for meetings. The delegation – led by ICDP Commissioner Bill Richardson, former Governor of New Mexico, USA – met with diplomats, the Delegation of the European Union, the Japanese Federation of Bar Associations, the Center for Prisoners Rights, and parliamentarians. These meetings provided an opportunity to learn more about Japan's system of criminal justice and to discuss the death penalty and the global trend towards its abolition. Governor Richardson also spoke at the symposium on "What Makes Criminal Justice Sustainable?" organized by the Norwegian Embassy and Aoyama Gakuin University, Tokyo, which was attended by former Ministers of Justice from Japan and Norway.

International Conference on the Death Penalty

MAY-JUNE 2012, TUNISIA

ICDP Commissioners Robert Badinter and Ruth Dreifuss met with government representatives, the President of the Republic Moncef Marzouki and the President of the Constituent Assembly Mustapha Ben Jaafar to discuss legal abolition of capital punishment and Tunisia's support for the 2012 UN General Assembly resolution calling for

a moratorium on executions. Commissioner Ruth Dreifuss gave a keynote speech on international trends on abolition of the death penalty and ICDP's work at an International Conference on the Death Penalty, organized by the Tunisian Coalition against the Death Penalty and the France-based NGO Ensemble contre la peine de mort (ECPM).

UN – Panel on the death penalty

JULY 2012, NEW YORK

Panel on the death penalty. ICDP President Federico Mayor participated in a panel on "Moving away from the death penalty. Lessons from national experience". The meeting, organized by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, was an opportunity to inform Member States about the death penalty before the UN General Assembly's debate on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty that year.

Roundtable on the Death Penalty

OCTOBER 2012, SPAIN

On 8 October, ICDP organized a roundtable in Madrid to review developments on capital punishment and identify legal and political challenges and opportunities for the coming five years. Discussion covered specific countries, regional and thematic issues as well as the

complementary roles of intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and governments to further the cause of abolition. The meeting was attended by over 40 individuals including academics and lawyers and representatives from intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and governments. On 9 October ICDP organized a public debate which included the participation of ICDP Commissioners, academics and representatives of civil society.

Regional Conference about the Death Penalty

OCTOBER 2012, MOROCCO

Experts, politicians, diplomats and activists from around the world gathered in Rabat for a major conference on capital punishment organized by ECPM. Commissioner Mohammed Bedjaoui represented ICDP at the Regional Conference and gave a keynote speech about ICDP's work and his time as Foreign Minister of Algeria when that country co-sponsored the 2007 UN General Assembly resolution calling for a moratorium on executions.

University of Padua

DECEMBER 2012, ITALY

To mark both International Human Rights Day and the 30th Anniversary of the Human Rights Centre at the University of Padua, the University organized an event entitled "Time to Abolish the Death Penalty". President Federico Mayor, ICDP Commissioners Ruth Dreifuss and Giuliano Amato and Secretary-General Asunta Vivó participated. President Mayor and Commissioner Dreifuss delivered presentations on ICDP's work and spoke about the global trend towards abolition.

The death penalty is the ultimate denial of human rights – it is cruel, morally wrong and damages society.

ICDP brings something new to the campaign to abolish this abhorrent practice – the voice of politically influential individuals with international standing from all world regions.

California

Country Mission

APRIL 2012

ICDP visited the state of California to support campaigning for Proposition 34, and initiative that would have replaced capital punishment with life imprisonment without parole. ICDP spoke at two public events and visited San Quentin State Prison.

FACTS

California hosts the largest death row in the USA with more than 720 condemned prisoners. Since restoring the death penalty in 1978 California has executed 13 prisoners but executions were halted in 2006. Repeal of the death penalty in California will provide important leadership not only to other US states but also internationally to countries moving towards abolition.

Right image: San Quentin Prison, California.

Below image: From left – Jeanne Woodford, Antonio Cluny, Asunta Vivo, Senator Mark Leno, Martin Macpherson and Elizabeth Zitrin.



Our Commissioners

ICDP Commission members 2010-2012.

The personal involvement of ICDP members with abolition of the death penalty means that the Commission is well placed to engage with senior officials from countries that have yet to abolish capital punishment. Their knowledge and experience ensure that ICDP has important global credibility.



Mr Federico Mayor
President



Mr Giuliano Amato
Commissioner



Ms Louise Arbour
Commissioner



Mr Robert Badinter
Commissioner



Mr Mohammed Bedjaoui
Commissioner



Ms Ruth Dreifuss
Commissioner



Ms Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis
Commissioner



Ms Asma Jahangir
Commissioner



Ms Ioanna Kuçuradi
Commissioner



Ms Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Commissioner



Mr Rodolfo Mattarollo
Commissioner



Mr Ibrahim Najjar
Commissioner



Mr Bill Richardson
Commissioner



Mr José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero
Honorary Commissioner

Mr Federico Mayor

SPAIN



Mr Federico Mayor, ICDP President, was born in Barcelona, Spain. He holds a doctorate in Pharmacy from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. Among his various political roles, Professor Mayor has been Undersecretary of Education and Science for the Spanish Government (1974–1975), Member of the Spanish Parliament (1977–1978), Advisor to the Prime Minister (1977–1978), Minister of Education and Science (1981–1982) and Member of the European Parliament (1987). In 1987, he was elected Director-General of UNESCO. He has published numerous scientific publications and is the author of four books of poetry and several books of essays.

"The death penalty has to be eradicated in all circumstances because it violates universally recognized human rights, in particular the right to life, which is the most fundamental right of all."

Mr Giuliano Amato

ITALY



Mr Giuliano Amato is an Italian politician and former Prime Minister of Italy. He has a Master's Degree in Comparative Law from the School of Law of Columbia University, USA and is Professor Emeritus of the European University Institute in Florence.

"I am convinced that abolishing the death penalty worldwide is a goal that many would like to achieve. But the task is very demanding. It requires continuous attention, convincing arguments and continued pressure on the states that still practise the death penalty. It is a mission that requires time, energy and resources. No mission can be fulfilled without missionaries and ICDP gathers the missionaries, organizes their activities, builds constituencies, raises awareness on the relevant facts and interacts with those who have to be convinced. The role it plays is essential."

Ms Louise Arbour

CANADA



Ms Louise Arbour, a Canadian jurist, is former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, former justice of the Supreme Court of Canada and the Court of Appeal for Ontario, and former Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. Since 2009, she has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the International Crisis Group. Ms Arbour has received, from some 30 universities, many honorary doctorates, and numerous medals and awards.

"ICDP was only founded in 2010 but in just two years it has become a major actor in the global cause to abolish the death penalty. In that time ICDP has undertaken several country missions to encourage efforts to abolish capital punishment. The organization also worked to support the UN General Assembly's resolution calling for a moratorium on executions. In that regard it was encouraging that in 2012 Seychelles and Tunisia supported the resolution for the first time and Indonesia, which had previously voted no, abstained in the vote. The abolitionist momentum has been on a slow but steady path and ICDP serves a critical role in pursuit of universal rejection of the death penalty."

Mr Robert Badinter

FRANCE



Mr Robert Badinter is a high-profile French criminologist, university professor and politician. He is particularly known for his struggle against capital punishment, for which he was awarded the Medal of Cesare Beccaria in November 2011. As a member of France's Socialist Party, he served as Minister of Justice and then President of the Constitutional Council under François Mitterrand. President Mitterrand's call for abolition during the election campaign was controversial as public opinion largely favoured capital punishment. Robert Badinter, as Minister of Justice, introduced legislation to abolish capital punishment in 1981 and on 17 September 1981, just one day before the death penalty was abolished, he said:

"Tomorrow, thanks to you, French justice will not be a justice that kills any more."

Mr Mohammed Bedjaoui

ALGERIA



Mr Mohammed Bedjaoui is an Algerian jurist and diplomat. He served as Algeria's ambassador to France and the UN, as judge on the International Court of Justice and as President of the Constitutional Council, Algeria's highest judicial authority. He was foreign minister of Algeria from 2005 to 2007. He is the author of several books and has been awarded a number of honorary doctorates and prizes in recognition of his work.

Ms Ruth Dreifuss

SWITZERLAND



Ms Ruth Dreifuss is a Swiss politician, economist and former journalist. She served as a member of the Swiss federal government from 1993 to 2002 and was President of the Swiss Confederation in 1999, the first woman in history to hold this office. She is a member of the Council of Women World Leaders, an international network of female leaders whose mission is to mobilize the highest-level women leaders globally for collective action on issues of critical importance to women and equitable development.

"All over the world, countless activists are engaged in the campaign to abolish the death penalty. The International Commission against the Death Penalty is part of this broad coalition of advocates campaigning for the most basic of human rights: the right to life."

Drawing from the experience of its members in positions of senior responsibility, and benefiting from the assistance of supportive states, the Commission is able to help non-governmental organizations get their message across, but can also speak directly to senior authorities.

It carries out country and regional missions to achieve these aims. By sharing the experiences of abolitionist countries, describing the progress made, and demonstrating that societies that have abolished this barbaric form of punishment have taken a stride forward in the fight against violence and social injustice, our members have taken this campaign to Japan, Tunisia, the USA as well as to Africa, Central Asia, and the Caribbean.

In spite of some setbacks, the campaign for abolition continues to gain momentum, as a growing number of states announce moratoriums on executions to the United Nations General Assembly."

Ms Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis

PAKISTAN



Ms Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis is a Haitian politician and former Prime Minister of Haiti (2008–2009). She has been Executive Director of the Knowledge and Freedom Foundation since 1995 and is Director of the Reconstruction and Development Programme of the Open Society Institute in New York. She is the recipient of several prizes, including the Yoko Tada Foundation for Human Rights (1993) and the “Trésor National Vivant” award (2006). She is member of a number of associations and has published numerous scientific articles.

“We need presidents and prime ministers to show political leadership in the cause to end capital punishment. Government intervention is critical in the campaign to abolish the death penalty.”

Ms Asma Jahangir

PAKISTAN



Ms Asma Jahangir is a leading Pakistani lawyer, advocate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, President of the Supreme Court Bar Association and human rights activist. She works in Pakistan and internationally to prevent the persecution of religious minorities and women and the exploitation of children. She was UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief from August 2004 to July 2010. Previously, she served as UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, arbitrary and summary executions. Due to her efforts to secure justice for disadvantaged groups, she has been frequently threatened by militant groups. Ms Jahangir is the author of two books, has received three honorary doctorates and is the recipient of a number of international and national awards.

Ms Ioanna Kuçuradi

TURKEY



Ms Ioanna Kuçuradi is a Turkish philosopher of Greek descent. She was Founding Director of the Centre for Research and Application of Human Rights at Maltepe University, Istanbul where she is currently Professor of Philosophy. She has received many awards, including the Prize of the Turkish Academy of Sciences (1996), Grosses Verdienstkreuz des Verdienstordens der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (2001), Honourable Mention UNESCO Human Rights Education Prize (2002) and the UNESCO Aristotle Medal (2003).

“ICDP keeps the issue of the death penalty on the international agenda and encourages national leaders to move towards abolition.”

Ms Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

PHILIPPINES



Ms Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was President of the Philippines from 2001 until 2010. During her Presidency, she refused to sign any execution order, commuted all death sentences to life imprisonment and in 2006 signed the law abolishing the death penalty. Currently, Ms Macapagal-Arroyo is a Representative Member of the Philippine Congress. She holds a doctorate in the Philosophy of Economics from the University of the Philippines. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo continues to work for global abolition of the death penalty and intervenes in individual cases, often including Philippine citizens on death row abroad.

“I assumed the Presidency of the Philippines in 2001. Although I inherited a death penalty law, I did not authorize any executions. On the occasion of my official visit to the Vatican in 2003, I made my anti-death penalty policy explicit. On Easter Monday, 2006, I announced the commutation of all death penalty sentences to life imprisonment for over one thousand prisoners. On 25 June 2006, I signed into law Republic Act 9346 Abolishing the Death Penalty.

We need to persuade other Asian countries to follow the example of the Philippines. There is fertile ground among the Asian countries that supported or abstained in the UN General Assembly vote, calling for a global moratorium on the death penalty. I am confident that our past efforts will bear more fruit in the future. I hope that, in our generation, we will see a world free from capital punishment.”

Mr Rodolfo Mattarollo

ARGENTINA



Mr Rodolfo Mattarollo is an Argentinian lawyer and has held senior posts in government and academia, including Chief of Staff of the Ministry of Human Rights. Ambassador Mattarollo is currently Special Representative of the Technical Secretariat of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR-Haiti). In his academic career he lectured in international law at the University of Lomas de Zamora and at the Institute for Latin-American Integration of the University of La Plata, Argentina. Ambassador Mattarollo is a member of the Council of the Presidency of the American Association of Jurists and honorary member of the Institute of Judicial Studies of El Salvador. He is also a member of the Council of the Presidency of the Permanent Assembly of Human Rights.

Mr Ibrahim Najjar

LEBANON



Mr Ibrahim Najjar is a lawyer and former Lebanese politician and government minister. He is a teacher of law and the author of numerous legal books and articles and the owner and editor of The Lebanese Review of Arab and International Arbitration and publishes the Saint Joseph Faculty of Law Journal. In 2010, he was awarded the National Medal for Human Rights in recognition of his draft law to abolish the death penalty in Lebanon. Ibrahim Najjar joined the national unity government in 2008 and was appointed Minister of Justice. He promoted laws in many fields including arbitrary detention and human rights and tried to repeal capital punishment in Lebanon's Penal Code. He recognized that abolition of the death penalty was a contentious issue but believed it was necessary to achieve a “more humane and more efficient justice system”. Had his draft law been accepted, capital punishment would have been replaced by life imprisonment.

“There has been a de facto moratorium on executions in my country since July 2008 following my refusal to sign execution warrants.”

Mr Bill Richardson

USA



Mr Bill Richardson was in 1997 US Ambassador to the UN, and in 1998 he was unanimously confirmed by the US Senate as Secretary of the US Department of Energy. While a Congressman, he served as a special envoy on many sensitive international missions. He successfully secured the release of hostages, American service personnel and prisoners in Cuba, Iraq, North Korea, and Sudan. Bill Richardson has been nominated several times for the Nobel Peace Prize. He was first elected Governor of New Mexico in 2002 and re-elected in 2006 with the support of 69 per cent of voters, representing the largest margin of victory for any governor in state history. On 18 March 2009, Governor Richardson signed an abolition bill into law, turning New Mexico into the fifteenth US state to abolish the death penalty. In a statement released that day Bill Richardson said:

“In a society which values individual life and liberty above all else, where justice and not vengeance is the singular guiding principle of our system of criminal law, the potential of wrongful conviction and, God forbid, execution of an innocent person stands as anathema to our very sensibilities as human beings.”

“When elected as Governor of New Mexico I was committed to the death penalty. I believed the death penalty to be a just punishment for murder. I also believed that it was necessary to deter others from committing such serious crimes. But my conscience was challenged by miscarriages of justice and the very real risk that an innocent person would be executed. In my view, to retain the death penalty with the inherent risk that a serious miscarriage of justice might take place is wrong. That an innocent person is executed is simply unacceptable.”

“ICDP plays an important role in raising awareness about the death penalty internationally.”

Mr José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero

SPAIN



Mr José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero began his political career in 1986 following his election as MP for León and then as MP for Madrid. As an MP he served on a number of committees in the Spanish Congress including Justice and Home Affairs. From 2004 until 2011, he was Prime Minister of Spain. In 2010, he was the driving force behind the Spanish government's initiative to create ICDP.

“My desire has always been to mobilize more action, more voices, and more arguments in favour of abolition, with individuals with a track record in supporting human rights. I believe that the constant aspiration of human kind has been to reject violence and minimize the use of force. Life is a universal norm – the death penalty is a contradiction to respect for life. I believe therefore, fully, in this work; it is one of the most fair and decent concerns that we can address.”





ICDP Secretariat

The Secretariat of ICDP is based in Geneva, Switzerland. There are three members of staff who are responsible for organizing the work of ICDP:

- Asunta Vivó Cavaller is the Secretary-General;
- Martin Macpherson is the Advisor; and
- Eriona Kucuqi is the Administrator/Coordinator of the ICDP.

Audit statement for 2012 accounts

Auditor's Report to the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Bern, and to the Secretariat of the International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) c/o the Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, Geneva.

Secretariat of the International Commission against the Death Penalty, Geneva.

In accordance with our mandate, we have audited the financial report of the Secretariat of the International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) for the year 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2012.

Responsibility for the financial report lies with ICDP, with our task being to audit it and to express an opinion thereon.

We have carried out this audit in accordance with Swiss Auditing Standards, which require audits to be planned and conducted in such a way as to provide reasonable assurance that statements are free from material error. We have audited items in the financial report through statistical sampling and analysis. We have also assessed how significant, evaluation-related decisions have been applied, and how the format of the financial report looks overall. Our view is that this audit constitutes a sufficient basis on which to form our opinion.

The financial report contains details of assets acquired and liabilities assumed during the period 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2012.

In our opinion, the financial report gives a true picture of assets acquired and liabilities assumed by ICDP during the period 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2012, complying with the contract signed between FDFA and ICDP on 19 June 2012.

Geneva, 9 April 2013
(Translated from French original)

BDO SA

Nadia Quévit
Certified expert auditor

Roland Loup
Certified expert auditor