



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

Sylvie Kayitesi

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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Madrid, 25 April 2016

**Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: Official Signature Ceremony of the Founding Act in Madrid**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP or Commission) held, on 25 April 2016 in Madrid, the Official Signature Ceremony of the Founding Act of ICDP as an organization according to Spanish law.

Participants in the ceremony included ICDP President Mr. Federico Mayor, Commissioners Ms. Hanne Sophie Greve and Mr. Ibrahim Najjar and Secretary General Ms. Asunta Vivo Cavaller. The signature took place in the presence of diplomats belonging to ICDP's Support Group. The Ceremony was hosted by the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Mr. Ignacio Ybañez Rubio of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain. The Ceremony marks an essential step in the formalization process of the Commission as a non-profit organization under Spanish law.

"Today, the Ceremony of Signature of the Founding Act of ICDP as an organization according to Spanish law marks an important milestone for the ICDP. It is a crucial step in its evolution towards a sustainable future as an independent and important voice in the universal movement for the abolition of the death penalty," said President Mayor in his speech on the occasion. He thanked all the Commissioners, members of the Support Group and the Secretariat for their key role in the strengthening the organization of the Commission.

Federico Mayor  
President of the International Commission  
against the Death Penalty



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## Background

The International Commission against the Death Penalty is composed of 17 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. 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 carry out the death penalty.

The Commission 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 Madrid.