



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

Rodolfo Mattarollo

Ibrahim Najjar

Bill Richardson

Honorary Member

José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero

Secretariat

Rue Rothschild 20, TL 004
CH-1202 Geneva
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 908 44 22
Fax: +41 22 908 62 62
asunta.vivo@icomdp.org
info@icomdp.org

www.icomdp.org

Geneva, 15 October 2013

Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: World Day on the Death Penalty, 2013 - Parliamentarians a crucial force in abolishing the death penalty 2013

On 10 October the International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) celebrated the World Day against the Death Penalty by organizing a joint event in Geneva for parliamentarians from around the world.

The one day event considered the global trend towards abolition of the death penalty and the role of Members of Parliament in ending this cruel and barbaric punishment.

Members of Parliament from Algeria, Australia, Bahrain, Belarus, Chad, Japan, Jordan, Pakistan, Peru, Suriname and Zambia heard ICDP Commissioner Ruth Dreifuss speak on how States can abolish the death penalty; Baroness Stern, Member of Parliament and Chair of the All Parliamentary Group on the abolition of the Death Penalty (United Kingdom), highlighted the role of parliamentarians in achieving abolition of the death penalty. Oliver Robertson presented the results of Penal Reform International's recent opinion poll in Belarus. Members of Parliament from Morocco and Kazakhstan made presentations about their work to abolish capital punishment in their respective countries.

"Parliamentarians are important actors in consolidating this process because they can take action including passing laws to abolish capital punishment. We encourage all parliamentarians to actively support the global trend towards abolition of the death penalty," said ICDP's President Federico Mayor.

ICDP launched its 'Review 2010-2012' on the occasion of the World Day against the Death Penalty. The [report](#) was released to celebrate ICDP's third anniversary and reviews ICDP's activities and achievements since its creation in October 2010 until December 2012.

Federico Mayor
President of the International Commission
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Background

ICDP was founded in Madrid in October 2010. ICDP is composed of 15 personalities 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 17 states from all regions of the world that are committed to abolition of the death penalty. Its secretariat is based in Geneva.