



Madrid, 8 March 2019

ICDP 02/2019

**International Commission
against the Death Penalty**

President

Navanethem (Navi) Pillay

Vice-Presidents

Ruth Dreifuss

Ibrahim Najjar

Members

Louise Arbour

Marc Bossuyt

Marzuki Darusman

Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis

Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj

Hanne Sophie Greve

Sylvie Kayitesi

Ioanna Kuçuradi

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Bill Richardson

Ivan Simonovic

Horacio Verbitsky

Honorary Members

Giuliano Amato

Robert Badinter

Mohammed Bedjaoui

Federico Mayor Zaragoza

José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero

Marta Vilardell

Founding Members

Rodolfo Mattarollo,
(1939-2014)

Asma Jilani Jahangir
(1952-2018)

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**Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty:
ICDP delegation participates in the Seventh World Congress against the
Death Penalty in Brussels**

A delegation of the International Commission against the Death Penalty led by President Judge Navi Pillay participated in the Seventh World Congress against the Death Penalty (World Congress) held in Brussels between the 26 February and 1 March 2019. The ICDP delegation included Vice President Ruth Dreifuss, the former President of the Swiss Confederation, Commissioners Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, former President of Mongolia, Professor Marc Baron Bossuyt, former Head of the Constitutional Court of Belgium and author of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Professor Ivan Simonovic, former UN Assistant Secretary General and former Minister of Justice of Croatia and Judge Hanne Sophie Greve, former Judge of the European Court of Human Rights and Vice President of the Gulating High Court for Western Norway and staff of the ICDP Secretariat.

On 26 February, all the Commissioners participated in a well-attended, highly regarded Side Event titled “How States abolish the death penalty: experiences and lessons learnt”, where they shared their experiences with regard to the death penalty, noted the current situation of the death penalty and reflected on recent concerns. The side event was linked to a recent ICDP publication titled, “How States Abolish the Death Penalty: 29 Case-Studies.”

After the Side Event, ICDP Commissioners led by President Pillay had an important meeting with the Political and Security Committee of the European Union.

On 27 February, ICDP President Judge Navi Pillay was one of the speakers at the Official Opening Ceremony of the World Congress where she highlighted the current situation of capital punishment and identified some of the opportunities and challenges facing the abolitionist movement. Noting this, she hoped that the World Congress would identify new actors and new strategies to further mobilise the abolitionist agenda towards a world free of the death penalty.

Earlier on 26 February, the ICDP delegation had a productive meeting with Minister of Justice of Morocco HE Mr. Mohammed Auajjar. On 27 February, ICDP delegation was hosted to an official dinner by the Spain’s Ambassador to Belgium, HE Beatriz Larrotcha Palma.



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The Commissioners had a dinner with representatives of key NGOs and academics who were participating in the World Congress.

The delegation had meetings with senior representatives of the European External Action Service, with delegations of ICDP's Support Group including Switzerland, Australia, Canada, the UK.

Noting the participation of several Commissioners, ICDP held internal meetings to discuss organizational issues.

Judge Navi Pillay
President
International Commission

Background

ICDP Commissioners are persons of high international standing from all regions of the world who act with total independence and neutrality and work under its President Judge Navi Pillay.

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 20 States and 2 observer States from all regions of the world that are committed to the abolition of the death penalty. Its secretariat is based in Madrid.