



**International Commission
against the Death Penalty**

President

Federico Mayor

Members

Giuliano Amato

Louise Arbour

Robert Badinter

Mohammed Bedjaoui

Ruth Dreifuss

Michèle Duvivier
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Hanne Sophie Greve

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Madrid, 22 April 2015

**Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty:
two Indonesian nationals executed in Saudi Arabia**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) expresses very serious concern at receiving reports of the executions by Saudi Arabian authorities of two Indonesian nationals, Siti Zainab Binti Duhri Rupa on 14 April 2015 and Karni Binti Medi Tarsim on 16 April 2015.

Reports that ICDP received suggest that the death penalty of 47 year-old Siti Zainab, who the police suspected of suffering from mental illness at the time of interrogation, was carried out in Medina. Following her “confession” in police custody that she had killed her employer who had allegedly mistreated her since hiring her as a domestic worker in 1998, Siti Zainab was reportedly sentenced to death in 1999. She had received no legal representation at any stage and she reportedly did not have access to a consular representative during the police interrogation when she had made her “confession”.

On 16 April, two days after the execution of Siti Zainab, the death penalty of another Indonesian national, 37 year-old Karni Binti Medi Tarsim was carried out by Saudi Arabian authorities in Yanbu. She had been reportedly sentenced to death in March 2013 after being found guilty of killing her employer’s four-year-old child in Yanbu in 2012. Karni was executed with no prior notification about the time, place or method of the executions to the Indonesian authorities.

“ICDP is shocked at the executions carried out by the authorities in Saudi Arabia as the death penalty is a cruel and inhuman punishment that amounts to a denial of human dignity and integrity. One of the executions involved a person who was suspected to be mentally ill. In both cases, authorities carried out the executions without any prior notification to the Indonesian authorities or to their family members. This is totally unacceptable,” said ICDP President Federico Mayor.

“I appreciate the Indonesian government’s efforts to protect its citizens abroad as a matter of priority and that by these efforts; it had reportedly succeeded in “freeing” 238 of its citizens from the death penalty between July 2011 and March 2015. I also urge the Indonesian authorities to stop carrying out any further executions, as ICDP has heard reports that at least ten persons, including foreign nationals, are in imminent danger of being executed,” said Mr. Mayor.

ICDP urges the authorities in Saudi Arabia and Indonesia to stop carrying out any further executions and to establish an official moratorium on the use of the death penalty in line with United Nations General Assembly Resolutions adopted in 2007, 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014.”



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ICDP further calls on both Saudi Arabia and Indonesia to join some 160 countries from all regions who, according to the United Nations, have abolished the death penalty or do not execute – having recognized that modern justice systems can protect the public from crime without the irrevocable and cruel nature of the death penalty and the constant risk of executing an innocent person.

Federico Mayor
President of the International Commission
against the Death Penalty

Background

ICDP was founded in Madrid in October 2010. ICDP is currently composed of 15 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. 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 ICDP is supported by a diverse group of 18 states from all regions of the world that are committed to the abolition of the death penalty. Its secretariat is based in Madrid