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**Statement by the  
International Commission against the Death Penalty  
on the Executions of Five Prisoners  
in Taiwan**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) strongly condemns the executions of five prisoners in Taiwan which were carried out on 4 March 2011.

ICDP regrets that these executions were carried out only a few weeks after the revelation of the wrongful execution of Chiang Kuo-ching, as it read the public apology by the Taiwanese President and Minister of Defence as signs of hope. The execution of an innocent person should be an example for all the countries that still have the death penalty in their law books, including Taiwan, because no justice system – no matter how developed it might be – is able to rule out the execution of an innocent person.

The death penalty undermines human dignity and violates the right to life recognized by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and it should not be applied whatever the circumstances, regardless of the gravity of the crime. Furthermore, there exists no conclusive evidence on the deterrent effect of the death penalty.

ICDP calls on the Taiwanese authorities to declare a moratorium on executions without delay with a view to its total abolition, in line with the worldwide trend towards the abolition of capital punishment confirmed by the UNGA Resolution 65/206 on a Moratorium on the Use of the Death Penalty adopted on the 21 December 2010.



Federico Mayor  
President of the International Commission  
against the Death Penalty