



Geneva, 8 April 2014

Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: Imminent Execution of Ramiro Hernández Llanas

**International Commission
against the Death Penalty**

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The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) strongly condemns the setting of an execution date for the Mexican national Ramiro Hernández Llanas by authorities in the US state of Texas. The execution, which is reportedly scheduled for 9 April 2014, would constitute a clear breach of international law as it violates the 2004 Avena Judgement of the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

In this judgement, ICJ ruled that the US Government had violated the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (Vienna Convention) in the case of 51 people sentenced to death, including Mr. Hernández Llanas. The authorities in Texas had sentenced Mr. Hernández Llanas without informing him about his right to seek prompt consular assistance as stipulated by Article 36 of the Vienna Convention to which the US Government is a State Party. In its Avena Judgment, the court ordered the US to review the sentences of the 51 people it had considered and to establish whether their defence had been harmed by violations of the Vienna Convention. As the Texas authorities did not review Mr. Llanas' case, the setting of his execution is a clear breach of the US' international legal obligations.

"ICDP deplores the death sentence against Ramiro Hernández Llanas in violation of international law. We urge the authorities not to execute Mr Hernández Llanas. ICDP also calls on the US Congress to enact legislation to implement the ICJ's Avena Judgement," said Federico Mayor, President of ICDP.

So far 18 US states have abolished capital punishment and others are moving in that direction. Recently, on 11 February, Governor Jay Inslee declared a moratorium on executions in the State of Washington. According to the United Nations, some 150 countries from all world regions have abolished the death penalty or do not execute.

ICDP calls on the authorities in Texas to stop any further executions, to commute all death sentences to terms of imprisonment and declare an official moratorium on executions as a first step towards abolition of capital punishment in line with United Nations General Assembly Resolutions adopted in 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012.

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Background

ICDP was founded in Madrid in October 2010. ICDP is 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 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 Geneva.