



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

Navanethem (Navi) Pillay

Ibrahim Najjar

Bill Richardson

Horacio Verbitsky

Honorary Member

José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero

Founding Member

Rodolfo Mattarollo
(1939-2014)

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Madrid, 28 October 2016

Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: 11th meeting of Commissioners in Madrid and a meeting in Paris

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP or Commission) held the 11th meeting of its Commissioners in Madrid on 10 and 11 October 2016.

ICDP President Mr. Federico Mayor opened the meeting noting that they were meeting on a symbolic day, the World Day against the Death Penalty (10 October), and that it was a historic meeting as it was the first one since the establishment of ICDP as a non-profit Association under Spanish law. During the meeting, the Commission noted and discussed the main activities undertaken in 2015 and 2016. During the year 2016, it was noted that the Commission undertook several visits including missions to Guatemala, Belarus, Indonesia, Norway, Guyana, Suriname and China. The Commissioners discussed organizational matters, strategies and the action plan for the next year, and possible future missions. Commissioner Federico Mayor was elected as President and Commissioners Ruth Dreifuss and Navi Pillay were elected as Vice-Presidents of the Commission. They also met during its General Assembly with Members-States of the Support Group on 11 October to inform them of the decisions made and to hear their views and feedback on related issues.

On 10 October, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Spain, Mr. Ignacio Ybáñez Rubio, hosted a lunch in honour of the Commissioners.

On 10 October, a public event titled: "Is Death Penalty a solution to terrorism?: Multiple Voices" was organized by ICDP in collaboration with the Governments of Spain and Switzerland and Casa Arabe in Madrid to commemorate the 14th World Day against the Death Penalty. The well-attended event, held in Casa Arabe, took place in the format of a Panel Discussion involving ICDP Commissioners Mr. Bill Richardson, Mr. Ibrahim Najjar, Ms. Hanne Sophie Greve, Mr. Horacio Verbitsky, Ms. Ruth Dreifuss, Ms. Michele Duvivier, Ms. Navi Pillay, representatives of Civil Society Organizations including Amnesty International España's Mr. Esteban Beltran, Community of Sant'Egidio's Mr. Carlos Busto and Helsinki Spain's Ms. Silvia Escobar. The discussion, was moderated by Professor Fernando Reinares of Real Instituto Elcano and it featured different aspects, experiences and perspectives highlighting that the death penalty was not a solution to terrorism. The event commenced with an opening address by Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of



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Spain Mr. Ybañez Rubio and concluded with a closing speech by ICDP President Mr. Federico Mayor.

On 19 October, President Mayor, Commissioner Robert Badinter, Commissioner Mohammed Bedjaoui and Commissioner Najjar met in Paris to discuss activities conducted by the Commission and future strategies for ICDP in the context of current global circumstances and developments.

Federico Mayor
President
of the International Commission
against the Death Penalty

Background

Composed of 17 Commissioners, who are persons of high international standing from all regions of the world, ICDP acts with total independence and neutrality and works 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. 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 18 States from all regions of the world that are committed to the abolition of the death penalty. Its secretariat is based in Madrid.