



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)

**Secretariat**

Serrano Galvache, 26,  
Torre Sur, 10 planta,  
Despacho 10-78,  
28071 Madrid,  
Spain  
Tel: +00 34 91 3799458  
asunta.vivo@icomdp.org  
info@icomdp.org

[www.icomdp.org](http://www.icomdp.org)

Madrid, 28 May 2015

**Statement by the International Commission against the Death  
Penalty: Nebraska (United States) abolishes the death penalty**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) warmly welcomes the abolition of the death penalty in Nebraska on 27 May 2015.

Nebraska became the 19<sup>th</sup> state in the United States to abolish capital punishment when its unicameral Legislature, by a 30 to 19 vote, voted on Wednesday (27 May) to override Governor Pete Rickett's veto of a bill repealing the death penalty law. The bill replaces the capital punishment with life imprisonment. At the time of its abolition of the death penalty, reports reaching ICDP suggest that ten men were facing the death penalty in Nebraska.

"I congratulate all those who have worked to abolish the death penalty in Nebraska. I hope that the other states in the United States that retain capital punishment will be inspired by Nebraska's example to consolidate the trend towards abolition of the death penalty," said ICDP's President Mr. Federico Mayor.

By abolishing capital punishment, ICDP is pleased to note that Nebraska joins the growing number of states in the United States that support the respect for the fundamental right to life and, thereby, human dignity. Nebraska became the seventh state in the US to abolish capital punishment in the last eight years and joins Maryland (2013), Connecticut (2012), Illinois (2011), New Mexico (2009), New Jersey and New York (both in 2007) as states that have repealed the death penalty. It also became the first Republican Party-controlled state to abolish the death penalty since North Dakota repealed it in 1973. The last execution in Nebraska took place in 1997.

ICDP believes that the death penalty violates the fundamental right to life proclaimed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and should not be applied in any circumstances, regardless of the gravity of the crime.

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President of the International Commission  
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## Background

Composed of 16 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. 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. In states that continue to carry out executions, ICDP urges strict adherence to international standards. The Commission 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 Madrid.