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**Statement by the
International Commission against the Death Penalty
on the Abolition of the Death Penalty in Illinois**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) welcomes with great satisfaction the abolition of the death penalty in Illinois becoming the 16th US state to abolish the death penalty.

ICDP congratulates Governor Pat Quinn for his decision of signing the *Senate Bill 3539* on 9 of March. He said in his statement accompanying the bill that the state's death penalty system was flawed and could lead to wrongful convictions or discriminatory treatment.

ICDP considers that the death penalty undermines human dignity and violates the right to life proclaimed 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.

The State of Illinois has abolished the death penalty after a moratorium on executions was declared in 2000. The abolition of the death penalty in Illinois sets an example for the other states in the USA that are observing a moratorium on the use of the death penalty and still maintain the death penalty in their legislation.

The abolition of the death penalty is excellent news for the State of Illinois, but also for the USA and the world, and reaffirms the worldwide trend on abolition of the death penalty that was confirmed by the recent adoption of the UNGA Resolution 65/206 on a Moratorium on the Use of the Death Penalty on 21 December 2010.



Federico Mayor
President of the International Commission
against the Death Penalty