

**International Commission  
against the Death Penalty**

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**Declaration by the  
International Commission against the Death Penalty  
on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Second Optional Protocol to International  
Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the entry into force of the Second Optional Protocol to International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, the International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) calls on all State Parties to the ICCPR to ratify the Second Optional Protocol and to promote its signature by the largest number of countries from all regions of the world.

The Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR is the only international instrument of worldwide scope to prohibit executions and provide for total abolition of the death penalty. Though 105 countries are abolitionist de iure, only 73 countries have ratified it.

ICDP believes that the death penalty is the ultimate denial of human rights. It violates the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, recognized by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Furthermore, ICDP, consider that the death penalty should not be applied whatever the circumstances, regardless of the gravity of the crime.

ICDP reiterates its support and participation in the World Coalition against the Death Penalty's campaign, launched in 2009 in order that the Second Protocol will be ratified by the largest number of countries, reinforcing the worldwide trend towards the abolition of the death penalty.



Federico Mayor  
President of the International Commission  
against the Death Penalty