



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, 20 July 2015

**Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: Togolese Republic's official accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) welcomes the official accession on 10 July 2015 by the government of the Togolese Republic (hereafter Togo) to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (hereafter Second Optional Protocol), aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. The last execution in Togo was carried out in 1978.

"I warmly welcome Togo's government for acceding and becoming a State Party to the Second Optional Protocol. By doing so, they have reaffirmed their commitment to abolition of the death penalty, this time internationally, after domestically abolishing capital punishment for all crimes in June 2009. This accession further reinforces the world trend towards abolition of this cruel, degrading and irrevocable punishment" said Mr. Federico Mayor, President of the ICDP.

With Togo's accession, as of 17 July 2015, there are 82 States Parties to the Second Optional Protocol. ICDP further calls on death penalty retentionist States and those States that do not execute to follow Togo's example and become States Parties to the Second Optional Protocol. According to the United Nations, some 160 countries from all over the world have abolished the death penalty or do not execute. These countries have recognized that modern justice systems can protect the public from crime without the irrevocable and cruel nature of the death penalty and the constant risk of executing an innocent person.

ICDP believes that the death penalty violates the 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

The International Commission against the Death Penalty is 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.