



**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

Rodolfo Mattarollo

Ibrahim Najjar

Bill Richardson

Honorary Member

José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero

Secretariat

Rue Rothschild 20, TL 004
CH-1202 Geneva
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 908 44 22
Fax: +41 22 908 62 62
asunta.vivo@icomdp.org
info@icomdp.org

www.icomdp.org

Geneva, 23 April 2014

**Statement by the International Commission against the Death
Penalty on Belarus: Execution of Pavel Selyun**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) condemns the execution of Pavel Selyun (24) by authorities in Belarus, the first execution since 2012.

The exact date of Mr Selyun's execution is not clear; his lawyer and family were only informed on 18 April. His lawyer reportedly went to meet Pavel Selyun and was informed that he "had left in accordance with the sentence", which implied that he had been executed. In Belarus, prisoners who are sentenced to death are told that they will be executed only moments before their executions are carried out. The executions take place by shooting. The bodies are not handed over to the family and the place of burial is kept secret.

Pavel Selyun was sentenced to death by the Hrodna Regional Court on 12 June 2013 for the murder of his 21 year-old wife and her 23 year-old lover in August 2012. The court found him guilty under Article 139 (2) (murder of two or more people with particular cruelty), Article 205 (robbery), Article 347 (mutilation of corpse or grave), and Article 378 (theft of personal documents) of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Belarus. Mr Selyun's appeal was turned down by the Supreme Court on 17 September. Subsequently, Pavel Selyun and his mother had reportedly written separately to President Alexander Lukashenka requesting a pardon.

"By executing Pavel Selyun, Belarus remains the only European country carrying out the death penalty. ICDP and I call on the President Lukashenka to introduce a moratorium on executions and death sentences without delay, and to join the worldwide trend towards abolition of the death penalty," said ICDP President Federico Mayor.

Federico Mayor
President of the International Commission
against the Death Penalty



**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

Rodolfo Mattarollo

Ibrahim Najjar

Bill Richardson

Honorary Member

José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero

Secretariat

Rue Rothschild 20, TL 004
CH-1202 Geneva
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 908 44 22
Fax: +41 22 908 62 62
asunta.vivo@icomdp.org
info@icomdp.org

www.icomdp.org

Background

ICDP was founded in Madrid in October 2010. ICDP is composed of 15 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. ICDP 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.

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 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 Geneva.