



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)

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Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: ICDP welcomes Zainabo Sylvie Kayitesi as its new Commissioner

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP or Commission) warmly welcomes Ms Zainabo Sylvie Kayitesi as its new Commissioner.

“I am very pleased that Ms Zainabo Sylvie Kayitesi, a former Minister and a highly respected voice of human rights from Africa, is joining the Members of the ICDP in our struggle to attain the goal of obtaining global abolition of the death penalty. Ms Kayitesi is a former Minister of Public Service and Labour of Rwanda. She brings a vast amount of expertise that she gained in her experiences as a President of the National Human Rights Commission in Rwanda, as Commissioner for the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights and as Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Refugees, Migrants and Internal Displaced People in Africa. As President of the Working Group on Death Penalty and Extra-Judicial, Summary or Arbitrary killings in Africa, Ms Kayitesi has contributed significantly to the move away from the death penalty in the African continent. I join my fellow Members of the Commission in welcoming her,” said ICDP President Mr. Federico Mayor.

Ms Sylvie Kayitesi will become the 17th Commissioner of the ICDP, which was founded in Madrid in October 2010.

ICDP Commissioners are 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. 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 ICDP is supported by a diverse group of 18 States from all regions of the world that are committed to the abolition of the death penalty. Its secretariat is based in Madrid.

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