



International Commission
against the Death Penalty

President

Federico Mayor

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Louise Arbour

Robert Badinter

Mohammed Bedjaoui

Ruth Dreifuss

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Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty on Taiwan: Five Executions in four different prisons in one day

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) condemns the executions of five men in four different prisons by authorities in Taiwan on 29 April 2014.

According to reports reaching ICDP, Teng Kuo-Ling was executed in Taipei Prison, Liu Yen-kua in Taichung Prison, two brothers Tu Ming-lang and Tu Ming-hsiung were executed in Tainan Prison and Tai Wen-chiang in Hualien Prison on the same day. The five executions were reportedly conducted by shooting after the men were initially anaesthetized.

The executions were carried out after Minister of Justice Luo Ying-shay signed the orders authorizing the death sentences, the first such orders Minister Luo issued after she assumed office in September 2013. The last executions were carried out on 19 April 2013 when six men were executed on the same day.

Sources suggest that there are at least 47 prisoners who have been sentenced to death in Taiwan.

“By carrying out the executions, Taiwan has gone against the worldwide trend which has moved towards the abolition of the death penalty. According to the United Nations, some 160 countries from all world regions and cultures have abolished capital punishment or no longer execute. These nations have recognized that state killing is wrong and fails to deter crime more effectively than other punishments. There is always the risk of executing an innocent person. ICDP and I call on President Ma Ying-jeou to introduce a moratorium on the death penalty without delay,” said ICDP President Federico Mayor.

Federico Mayor
President of the International Commission
against the Death Penalty



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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.