



**International Commission
against the Death Penalty**

President

Federico Mayor

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Louise Arbour

Robert Badinter

Mohammed Bedjaoui

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**Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty
on the Palestinian Authority: Two Palestinians executed as Israeli
Spies**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) condemns the executions of two men in the Palestinian Authority by the Hamas authorities in Gaza on 7 May 2014.

Reports suggest that one man identified as AK, who was said to be 30 years of age, was executed by hanging and another man identified as ZR and 40 years of age was executed by a firing squad, on charges of 'collaborating' and providing sensitive information to authorities to Israel over a period of some nine years. Hamas authorities were cited as stating that the men executed on 7 May had been convicted of treason for providing Israel with information used to kill Palestinians and bomb targets in Gaza. According to the authorities, the two men had exhausted legal options and had access to attorneys.

In 2013, three executions were reportedly carried out by the officials in the Palestinian Authority and at least 14 death sentences were imposed. Since Hamas took control of the Gaza Strip in 2007, at least 19 prisoners have been reportedly executed, 10 of them, allegedly, as spies.

"ICDP and I call on the Palestinian Authority, especially the Hamas authorities to stop carrying out any further executions, to commute all death sentences to terms of imprisonment and declare an official moratorium on executions as a first step towards abolition of capital punishment in line with United Nations General Assembly Resolutions adopted in 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012," said ICDP President Federico Mayor.

ICDP further calls on the Palestinian Authority to join the international community, the majority of whom have abolished the death penalty or do not execute – having 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.

Federico Mayor
President of the International Commission
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Background

ICDP was founded in Madrid in October 2010. The Commission 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. 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 Geneva.