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**Statement by the  
International Commission against the Death Penalty on  
the Possible Execution of Rizana Nafeek in Saudi  
Arabia**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) takes this opportunity to express its deep concern on the possible execution of Rizana Nafeek, a Sri Lankan national, arrested in May 2005 on charges of murdering an infant in her care in Saudi Arabia. In October 2010 the Supreme Court ratified the death sentence passed by a court in 2007. According to her birth certificate Rizana Nafeek committed the crime, for which she was sentenced to death, when she was 17 years old.

ICDP was founded in order to obtain the establishment of a universal moratorium on the use of the death penalty as a first step towards its total abolition and to solicit the suspension of executions in cases where International Law prohibits or restricts its application, in particular, when it affects the most vulnerable groups of society.

ICDP wants to recall that the execution of children is clearly prohibited by international human right standards and more specifically by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, of which Saudi Arabia is a state party since 1997. Art. 37 (a) of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, stipulates that all States Parties shall ensure that “Neither capital punishment nor life imprisonment without possibility of release shall be imposed for offences committed by persons below eighteen years of age”.

ICDP urges the Saudi Arabian authorities to commute the sentence of Rizane Nafeek in accordance with international human rights standards and International Law.



Federico Mayor  
President of the International Commission  
against the Death Penalty