



International Commission
against the Death Penalty

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Louise Arbour

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Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: Egypt resumes executions amid mass death sentences

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) strongly condemns the executions of seven persons which were reportedly conducted on 16 and 19 June 2014 by authorities in Egypt.

According to reports reaching ICDP, three men and one woman were executed at the Assuit public prison on 16 June, the first executions since authorities last carried out the capital punishment in Egypt in October 2011. In addition, three executions were reportedly carried out on 19 June. One man was executed in Cairo's Prison of Appeal and two men were executed in Alexandria's Borg Al Arab prison. All the executions were carried out by hanging.

The executions came in the backdrop of the confirmation on 21 June, by the criminal court in Minya of death sentences to 183 persons including Mr Mohamed Badie, the supreme guide of the Muslim Brotherhood. Earlier in May and June, criminal courts in Giza, Cairo and Alexandria have recommended or upheld death sentences on several members of the Muslim Brotherhood including a second death sentence on Mr Badie.

On 21 June, the criminal court in Minya, which had initially sentenced 683 individuals to death on 28 April, commuted death sentences of four defendants into life in prison, including two women, and acquitted 496 others. On 28 April, the same court had confirmed the death sentences of 37 men after initially recommending the capital punishment to 528 men.

"ICDP expresses its deep concern at the resumption of executions in Egypt. ICDP calls on the authorities in Egypt 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. We have, in the past, expressed concerns at the unprecedented number of sentences to capital punishment that were imposed in March and April. We also urge the Egyptian authorities not to pass sentences of death," said ICDP President Federico Mayor.

ICDP notes with concern that the resumption of executions comes at a time of mass death sentences being passed or confirmed by criminal courts in Egypt. ICDP reiterates its call for the retrial of those sentenced to death to be brought to justice without recourse to capital punishment.

ICDP further calls on Egypt to join some 160 countries from all regions who, according to the United Nations, 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. These



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nations have recognized that state killing is wrong and fails to deter crime more effectively than other punishments.

Federico Mayor
President of the International Commission
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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.