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**Statement by the
International Commission against the Death Penalty
on the increase of executions
in Iran**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty adds its voice to the deep concern expressed by International and Regional Organizations as well as other relevant NGOs on the recent alarming increase of executions in Iran. According to several sources, at least 86 people have been executed during the month of January of 2011.

This dramatic increase of executions is against the trend towards the abolition of the death penalty in all regions of the world, which has been reaffirmed by the third Resolution on “Moratorium on the use of the death penalty” adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on the 21 of December 2010 (General Assembly Resolution 65/206).

ICDP recalls that Iran is a State Party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and therefore the country has to respect the limitation explicitly established by Article 6(2) of the ICCPR of applying the death penalty to the “most serious crimes”, which according to the UN Human Rights Committee “must be read restrictively to mean that the death penalty should be a quite exceptional measure”.

ICDP urges the Iranian authorities to establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty without further delay and to respect international standards that provide safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty, in particular the minimum standards, as set out by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (resolution 1984/50 of 25 May 1984).



Federico Mayor
President of the International Commission
against the Death Penalty