



Geneva, 29 October 2014

Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: Execution of Reyhaneh Jabbari by authorities in Iran

**International Commission
against the Death Penalty**

President

Federico Mayor

Members

Giuliano Amato

Louise Arbour

Robert Badinter

Mohammed Bedjaoui

Ruth Dreifuss

Michèle Duvivier
Pierre-Louis

Hanne Sophie Greve

Asma Jilani Jahangir

Ioanna Kuçuradi

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Ibrahim Najjar

Bill Richardson

Honorary Member

José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero

Founding Member

Rodolfo Mattarollo
(1939-2014)

Secretariat

Rue Rothschild 20, TL 004
CH-1202 Geneva
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 908 44 22
Fax: +41 22 908 62 62
asunta.vivo@icomdp.org
info@icomdp.org

www.icomdp.org

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) condemns the execution of 26 year-old Iranian national Reyhaneh Jabbari by authorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran) on Saturday, 25 October 2014.

On 7 July 2007, Reyhaneh Jabbari reportedly stabbed Morteza Abdolali Sarbandi fatally after he offered to hire her to redesign his office and then took her to a residence, where, according to her, he attempted to sexually assault her. Ms.Jabbari reportedly confessed to the murder shortly after her arrest, though she stated that she had committed it in self-defence. Moreover, she did not have a lawyer present at the time of her confession. Following her arrest, Reyhaneh Jabbari was, according to reliable reports, held in solitary confinement for two months in Evin Prison (Teheran), where she did not have access to a lawyer or her family.

On 14 April 2014, ICDP issued a public statement that strongly urged the Iran to halt immediately the execution of Ms.Jabbari. At that time, her sentence had reportedly been sent to the Office of Implementation of Sentences (OIS) in Tehran and there were fears that her execution could be carried out at any time.

The Iranian authorities reportedly made attempts to prevent Ms.Jabbari's execution in April and September. This was apparently done in order to enable the two families to reach a settlement.

“At the end, it is the Government's responsibility to prevent executions and I am deeply saddened and condemn the execution of Reyhaneh Jabbari on 25 October. Her execution comes at a time when there is an unfortunate increase in the number of executions carried out by authorities in Iran. ICDP and I call on the authorities in Iran 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.

In 2013, 369 executions have been officially acknowledged by Iranian authorities but the number is believed to be higher. Until today, Iran is imposing death sentences on crimes that are not coherent with international standards on the implication of the death penalty.



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ICDP further calls on Iran to join the majority of States – some 160 countries from all over the world – who, according to the United Nations, have abolished the death penalty or do not execute. These countries have 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
against the Death Penalty

Background

ICDP was founded in Madrid in October 2010. ICDP is currently composed of 14 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 ICDP is supported by a diverse group of 18 states from all regions of the world that are committed to the abolition of the death penalty. Its secretariat is based in Geneva.