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Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty on the Possible Execution of Three Philippine citizens in China

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) expresses its deep concern on the possible imminent executions of the three Philippine nationals Ramon Credo, Sally Ordinario-Villanueva, and Elizabeth Batain sentenced to death for drug trafficking in China in 2008. Last February the Chinese authorities decided to suspend the executions of these prisoners.

ICDP was founded in order to obtain the establishment of a universal moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to its total abolition, and to call for 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 has observed with particular concern that in several retentionist countries the number of foreigners (mostly migrant workers) that are sentenced to death and executed is proportionally higher than the number of nationals.

ICDP considers that the death penalty undermines human dignity and violates the right to life proclaimed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and it should not be applied whatever the circumstances, regardless of the gravity of the crime.

ICDP urges the Chinese authorities to commute the sentences of the three Philippine citizens in compliance with international human rights standards and to establish a moratorium on executions with a view to its total abolition, in line with the worldwide trend towards abolition of capital punishment by the UNGA Resolution 65/206 on a Moratorium on the Use of the Death Penalty adopted on the 21 December 2010.

Federico Mayor President of the International Commission against the Death Penalty