



**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

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Geneva, 1 December 2014

**Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty:
9th meeting in Geneva**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP or Commission) held the 9th meeting of its Commissioners in Geneva on 24 and 25 November 2014.

ICDP President Mr Federico Mayor opened the meeting. The Commissioners observed a minute of silence for ICDP Commissioner Rodolfo Mattarollo, who passed away on 18 June 2014. During the meeting, the Commission presented a report with the main activities undertaken this year, notably the ICDP missions to Lebanon, Suriname and Delaware; events including the ICDP Side-Event at the UN, in June, on the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Second Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; meetings with members of the UN Human Rights Committee on 10 October; conferences attended by Commissioners including a side event at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe on “Combatting Torture and Abolishing the Death Penalty in the OSCE Region: Two sides of the same coin?” in Vienna and on the occasion of the 3rd Jakarta Human Rights Dialogue on the Abolition of the Death Penalty in the ASEAN Region, which was held in Jakarta in November.

On 24 November, the Commissioners met the new United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein. They exchanged views on the situation of the death penalty worldwide and discussed areas of possible future cooperation.

The Commissioners welcomed the outcome- a record 114 States supported- of the draft Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) calling for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty that was voted at the 69th session of the Third Committee of the UNGA on Friday, 21 November 2014. ICDP Commissioners called on more States to vote at the UNGA plenary in December to show increased support for a global moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty.

The Commissioners discussed the future of ICDP, including organisational changes as a follow-up to an evaluation of the Commission that was conducted earlier this year. The Commissioners met with members-States of the Support Group to hear their views and feedback on related issues.

Following the deliberations, a decision was made to move the ICDP Secretariat to Madrid, Spain, during a transitional period, starting January 2015.

Federico Mayor
President of the International Commission
against the Death Penalty



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Background

The International Commission against the Death Penalty 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 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, which is currently based in Geneva, will move to Madrid in January 2015.