



International Commission
against the Death Penalty

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Madrid, 6 September 2011

**Statement by the
International Commission against the Death Penalty
on Benin's National Assembly vote in favour of
ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International
Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) welcomes with great satisfaction the decision taken by Benin's National Assembly to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Once the bill of ratification will be deposited, Benin will become the 74th state worldwide to join the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which calls for the death penalty to be abolished.

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. Furthermore, there exists no conclusive evidence on the deterrent effect of the death penalty.

The abolition of the death penalty in Benin would set an example for other African states in the region that are observing a moratorium on the use of the death penalty and that still maintain the death penalty in their legislation.

ICDP, therefore, encourages the Benin authorities to take the necessary steps for the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to enter into force as soon as possible in Benin.

Federico Mayor
President of the International Commission
against the Death Penalty