



**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

Rodolfo Mattarollo

Ibrahim Najjar

Bill Richardson

**Honorary Member**  
José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero

**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](http://www.icomdp.org)

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## **Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: First execution for crimes committed during Bangladesh Liberation War**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) condemns the execution by the government of Bangladesh of Abdul Quader Mollah on 12 December.

Abdul Quader Mollah, 65, was executed at Dhaka Central Jail following his conviction by Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT). The ICT was set up in 2010 to investigate crimes committed during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War (1971 War). Abdul Quader Mollah was a leader of the Jamaat-e-Islami party and was convicted of serious crimes including the killing of civilians during the 1971 War.

The execution took place just days ahead of Victory Day which is commemorated in Bangladesh on 16 December.

The ICT sentenced Abdul Quader Mollah to life imprisonment in February 2013 on several charges including crimes against humanity and war crimes. Following an amendment in the ICT law, the government appealed against the sentence and in September, the Bangladesh Supreme Court found Mollah guilty of murders and war crimes and converted his life sentence to death sentence. Abdul Quader Mollah had no possibility to appeal against the Supreme Court's decision as is required under international law. Mollah becomes the first person to be executed for crimes committed during the 1971 War.

Four other leaders in the Jamaat-e-Islami party have also been convicted by the ICT and are at risk of execution.

"We call on the government of Bangladesh to stop any further executions, commute all death sentences to terms of imprisonment and declare an official moratorium on executions in line with the UN General Assembly Resolutions adopted in 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012," said Federico Mayor, President of ICDP.

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President of the International Commission  
against the Death Penalty



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## Background

ICDP was founded in Madrid in October 2010. ICDP is composed of 15 personalities of high international standing from all regions of the world who act with total independence and neutrality and work under its President 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 17 states from all regions of the world that are committed to abolition of the death penalty. Its secretariat is based in Geneva.