



International Commission  
against the Death Penalty

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**Statement by the  
International Commission against the Death Penalty  
on the Introduction of a Moratorium on the Use of the Death Penalty  
in Oregon, USA**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) has learnt with great satisfaction that the governor of the US State of Oregon has announced a moratorium on the use of the death penalty in that state.

ICDP congratulates and highly praises the decision taken by Governor John Kitzhauber to stay the execution of death row inmate Gary Haugen as well as any other executions, which might have been scheduled during his term as Governor. In his strong statement, Governor Kitzhauber characterised the death penalty system as compromised and inequitable. He made the decision with a solid base of information and experience. During his two previous terms as Governor from 1995 to 2003, Kitzhauber did not intervene in the execution of two death row prisoners, a decision he has questioned ever since. He said further: "I do not believe that those executions made us safer; certainly I don't believe they made us more noble as a society. And I simply cannot participate once again in something I believe to be morally wrong."

The death penalty undermines human dignity and violates the right to life proclaimed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Death Penalty 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.

Oregon has executed two people since its voters approved the death penalty in 1984. The last execution took place in 1997. Currently, there are 37 inmates on death row.

ICDP encourages Governor Kitzhauber to commute the death sentences of the 37 remaining death row prisoners to prison terms and to lead the Oregon legislature to permanently abolish capital punishment in the state.

Federico Mayor  
President of the International Commission  
against the Death Penalty