



Madrid, 14 October 2020

**ICDP 1/2020**

**International Commission  
against the Death Penalty**

**President**

Navanethem (Navi) Pillay

**Vice-Presidents**

Ruth Dreifuss

Ibrahim Najjar

**Members**

Louise Arbour

Marc Bossuyt

Helen Clark

Marzuki Darusman

Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis

Tsakhia Elbegdorj

Hanne Sophie Greve

Sylvie Kayitesi

Ioanna Kuçuradi

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Bill Richardson

Ivan Simonovic

Horacio Verbitsky

**Honorary Members**

Giuliano Amato

Robert Badinter

Mohammed Bedjaoui

Federico Mayor Zaragoza

José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero

Marta Vilardell

**Founding Members**

Rodolfo Mattarollo,  
(1939-2014)

Asma Jilani Jahangir  
(1952-2018)

**Secretariat**

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**Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Commissioners and ICDP 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP or Commission) held the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of its Commissioners on 7 October 2020, which coincided with ICDP's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. During the Meeting, the Commissioners discussed the activities and achievements made by the Commission since its last meeting in July 2019, identified challenges and opportunities within the current context of the situation of the death penalty and made recommendations for the drafting of an action plan for the year ahead. They reviewed ICDP's financial situation, approved the budget, the audit report and considered fundraising activities in the Commission's goal to achieve greater financial stability and sustainability. After the Meeting, the Commissioners held an online General Assembly, which was an interactive meeting with Member-States of ICDP's Support Group. The Meeting and General Assembly were held online due to restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

During this special Meeting of the Commissioners, marking the observation of ICDP's tenth anniversary, a book titled "The Death Penalty - Revenge or Justice?," edited by Commissioner Prof Ioanna Kuçuradi was launched. A new-look ICDP website ([www.icomdp.org](http://www.icomdp.org)) was inaugurated. Moreover, ICDP Commissioners made videos on this occasion.

In her video, ICDP President Judge Navi Pillay, who chaired the Meeting of Commissioners and General Assembly, stated that:

*"The ICDP was founded with the conviction that the abolition of the death penalty is only possible with the combined efforts of States, civil society and International Governmental Organizations. (...) In this our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, ICDP would like to renew its commitment in this important struggle, which has so many human rights implications, and to continue the momentum towards a world free of the death penalty."*

ICDP's Founding President Federico Mayor, who held the Presidency of the Commission until 2017, emphasized that:

*"ICDP is today more necessary than ever. (...) Every life that is executed is against the most essential rights of all humanity. It is for this reason that I think we must not only commemorate, but to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ICDP. At the same time, we have a lot of work to be done."*

On 13 October, an online Meeting was organized, to celebrate the anniversary, between ICDP Commissioners led by President Pillay and Foreign Ministers and Human Rights Commissioners of ICDP's Support Group.



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**Background**

Composed of 22 Commissioners, who are persons of high international standing and with decades-long experience in senior positions in public service, ICDP acts with total independence and neutrality under its President Judge Navi Pillay, the former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

ICDP opposes the death penalty under any circumstances believing that it violates the right to life enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Commission 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.

ICDP works with the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, governments and nongovernmental organizations to further the abolition of capital punishments worldwide.

The work of ICDP is supported by a diverse group of 24 Member-States who are committed to the abolition of the death penalty. ICDP's Commissioners and Member-States come from all regions of the world. It's Secretariat is based in Madrid.