



Madrid, 08 July 2019

International Commission
against the Death Penalty

ICDP 06/2019

President

Navanethem (Navi) Pillay

Vice-Presidents

Ruth Dreifuss

Ibrahim Najjar

Members

Louise Arbour

Marc Bossuyt

Helen Clark

Marzuki Darusman

Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis

Tsakhagiin Elbegdorj

Hanne Sophie Greve

Sylvie Kayitesi

Ioanna Kuçuradi

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Bill Richardson

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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)

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Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: 14th Meeting of the Commissioners and Side-event celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR in Geneva, Switzerland.

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP or Commission) held the 14th meeting of its Commissioners in Geneva between 1 and 2 July 2019.

On 1 July, the Meeting of the Commissioners was held under the leadership of President Judge Navi Pillay at the Permanent Mission of Australia to the UN in Geneva. A total of 13 ICDP Commissioners participated in the Meeting. The Commissioners discussed the activities undertaken since the last Meeting of Commissioners in May 2019. They also deliberated recent developments, the context of the situation of the death penalty in the world and decided on the strategies and the activities for the Commission, including future missions, as part of the action plan for the second half of 2019 and the first half of 2020. They considered ICDP's financial situation and discussed fundraising activities of the Commission to ensure the implementation of its action plan.

On 1 July evening, the Commissioners participated in the General Assembly meeting where ICDP's Member States of its Support Group attended. The General Assembly was hosted by the Permanent Mission of Spain to the UN at the Restaurant of the Delegates in the Palais des Nations.

On 2 July, ICDP's Steering Committee meeting was chaired by ICDP President Judge Navi Pillay where the activities of the Commission were deliberated. The Steering Committee meeting was held at the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations in Geneva.

On 2 July afternoon, ICDP organized a high-level Side-Event at the Palais des Nations on occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights aiming the abolition of the death penalty (Second Optional Protocol). The panel was chaired by ICDP President Judge Navi Pillay and was moderated by the ICDP Vice-President Ruth Dreifuss. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michele Bachelet gave the opening keynote speech. The panellists included ICDP Commissioner Professor Marc Baron Bossuyt, the author of the Second Optional Protocol, ICDP Commissioner Tsakhagiin Elbegdorj, former President of Mongolia who led his country to adopting the road of initially becoming a State Signatory and ratifying the Second Optional Protocol before eventually abolishing the death penalty in his country, and ICDP Commissioner Sylvie Kayitesi, President of the Working Group on Death Penalty and Extra-Judicial, Summary or Arbitrary killings in Africa. The well-attended event was



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organised with the collaboration of ICDP Support Group Member Belgium and co-sponsored by 20 other States from all over the world.

During the Side-Event, ICDP released an interactive map on the world situation of the death penalty as reflected by the State Parties to the Second Optional Protocol. The map was created by the Elbegdorj Institute in collaboration with the ICDP Secretariat. The interactive map highlights the situation in the years 1998, 2008 and 2018 with the aim of reflecting the achievements and developments of the Second Optional Protocol as an international commitment of abolition of the death penalty worldwide and thereby gives a pictorial representation of the global situation of capital punishment over abolitionist movement worldwide over the past three decades. The interactive map is available on ICDP's website.

Judge Navy Pillay
President of the International Commission
against the Death Penalty

Background

Composed of 22 Commissioners, who are persons of high international standing and who represent all regions of the world, ICDP acts with total independence and neutrality and works under its President Judge Navi Pillay. ICDP opposes the death penalty under any circumstances. The death penalty violates the right to life enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, whose 70th anniversary is being observed this year. 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 22 Member-States including two Observer States from all parts of the world who are committed to the abolition of the death penalty.