



Geneva, 12 March 2013

International Commission
against the Death Penalty

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Federico Mayor

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Louise Arbour

Robert Badinter

Mohammed Bedjaoui

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Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: 21 people sentenced to death in Egypt

The International Commission against Death Penalty (ICDP) condemns the upholding of death sentences imposed on 21 people in Egypt.

On 9 March 2013, the New Cairo Criminal Court confirmed the death penalty on 21 people for their involvement in the February 2012 Port Said riot. The riot erupted at the end of a football match between Cairo's Al-Ahly club and Port Said's Al-Masry club and resulted in 74 people being killed and 1,000 others being injured. The court decision upheld the earlier death sentences that it imposed on 26 January 2013.

ICDP calls on the Egyptian authorities to commute the death sentences to terms of imprisonment and to introduce an immediate moratorium on executions in line with the UN General Assembly Resolutions adopted in 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012.

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BACKGROUND

ICDP was founded in Madrid in October 2010. ICDP is composed of 14 personalities of high international standing from all regions of the world who act with total independence and neutrality and work under its President Mr. 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 16 states from all regions of the world that are committed to abolition of the death penalty. There is small secretariat in Geneva.