



**International Commission  
against the Death Penalty**

**President**  
Federico Mayor

**Members**  
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## **Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: 5th World Congress against the Death Penalty concludes in Madrid**

Hundreds of people met in Madrid, 12-15 June 2013, to review death penalty developments and agree abolitionist strategies. The four-day Congress brought together international experts, campaigners and high-profile figures including Nobel Peace Prize laureates, ex-death row inmates and families of people sentenced to death from over 90 countries.

Before the Congress the International Academic Network for Abolition of Capital Punishment organized a one-day preparatory meeting for academics to discuss a range of issues including the deterrent effect of the death penalty and human cruelty in art.

The Madrid Congress comes at a critical time as the international movement for abolition of the death penalty continues to grow in strength and influence. According to the UN, some 150 countries have now abolished capital punishment in law or practice.

The President of the International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP), Mr Federico Mayor, paid tribute to Together against the Death Penalty (ECPM) for organizing the Congress, the Government of Spain for hosting the event and the Governments of France, Norway and Switzerland for their support.

The abolitionist movement is gathering strength as more countries turn their back on capital punishment. While acknowledging this positive trend there were calls to inspire and engage with other networks to further strengthen the abolitionist movement. Participants welcomed the outreach to parliamentarians and the initiative by the University of Oslo to create a network of universities against the death penalty.

During the Congress the World Coalition against the Death Penalty launched the manual 'Representing Individuals Facing the Death Penalty'. The manual provides lawyers with legal arguments and guidance in their representation of individuals facing the death penalty.

The Madrid Congress sends a powerful moral and political message to those countries that still cling to the death penalty that the time has come to end this cruel and inhuman punishment.



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“Human dignity was enhanced by abolishing slavery and torture. We must now intensify our efforts and consign the death penalty to history - a death penalty free world is within our grasp,” said Mr Mayor, President of ICDP.

The meeting ended with calls for the next World Congress to be held in a country that still uses the death penalty.

Federico Mayor  
President of the International Commission  
against the Death Penalty

## 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 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. Its secretariat is based in Geneva.