



International Commission
against the Death Penalty

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Geneva, 12 April 2012

**Statement by the
International Commission against the Death Penalty
on vote to repeal death penalty in Connecticut**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) warmly welcomes the move to abolish the death penalty in Connecticut.

Following votes by the Senate and House of Representatives to repeal the death penalty the Governor is expected to sign the bill into law.

Connecticut will be the 17th state to abolish the death penalty. New York, New Jersey, New Mexico and Illinois all abolished the death penalty in the past five years. Other states are considering abolition.

The state of Oregon introduced a moratorium on executions in 2011.

Later this year (6th November 2012) California will hold a public vote on whether to replace the death penalty with life imprisonment.

More than two-thirds of all countries have shunned the death penalty and the UN General Assembly has called on states retaining capital punishment to establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty.

The vast majority of executions take place in just five countries: China, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and the USA. But in the USA the number of executions and death sentences are steadily declining as courts resort to life imprisonment as an alternative to judicial killings.

ICDP considers that the death penalty undermines human dignity and violates the right to life proclaimed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and it should never be applied whatever the crime. Furthermore, there exists no conclusive evidence that the death penalty is a deterrent, and there is a real risk of executing innocent people.

Since the early 1970s more than 140 death row inmates have been exonerated - people sent to death row for a crime they did not commit.

ICDP urges Governor Dannel P. Malloy to sign the Bill into law without delay and urges other states to follow Connecticut's lead.

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Background

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) was founded in Madrid in October 2010. 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 non governmental organizations to further the abolition of capital punishment worldwide.

ICDP is composed of 13 personalities of high international standing from all regions of the world who act with total independence and neutrality and work under its President Federico Mayor. 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. Switzerland currently holds the Presidency of the Support Group which will pass to Norway in October this year. There is small secretariat in Geneva which is responsible for organizing the work of the ICDP.