



International Commission  
against the Death Penalty

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Geneva, 21 November 2012

**Statement by the International Commission against the death penalty:  
Execution of Mr Mohammed Ajmal Amir Kasab, first execution in India  
since 2004**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) deeply regrets the execution today of Mr Kasab.

The hanging took place at 7.30am (India time) in Yerawada prison, Pune, India after the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee, rejected Mr Kasab mercy plea.

Mr Kasab was part of an armed group that attacked buildings in Mumbai killing 166 people in November 2008. He was convicted of murder and other crimes in May 2010. The verdict was upheld by the Supreme Court in August this year.

ICDP extends its deepest sympathy to all those who suffered in the Mumbai attacks and condemns the crimes unreservedly.

ICDP believes that states should deliver a criminal justice system that is effective at punishing the guilty and reforming their behaviour. Such a justice system should protect the public from crime but without recourse to the death penalty. Furthermore, there exists no conclusive evidence on the deterrent effect of the death penalty. Studies in the USA demonstrate that the death penalty is no more an effective deterrent to murder than life imprisonment.

Executions in India are extremely rare. The execution of Mr Kasab is the first since 2004.

The execution in India comes two days after the UN General Assembly's Third Committee adopted a resolution calling for a moratorium on the Use of the Death Penalty. The resolution reinforces support for the global trend away from the death penalty.

ICDP urges the government of India to enact an immediate moratorium on executions and to undertake a comprehensive review on the future use of capital punishment. Such a review would give India the time to reassess its use of the death penalty and alternatives to execution.

Federico Mayor  
President of the International Commission  
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## BACKGROUND

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (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 a small secretariat in Geneva.