



Geneva, 15 November 2012

Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: ICDP condemns execution in Pakistan

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) condemns the execution of Mohammad Hussain, a Pakistani soldier, on Thursday 15 November.

The hanging of Mohammed Hussain is the first execution since 2008. He was sentenced to death by a military court in 2008 for killing a superior officer.

For the past four years Pakistan has observed an unofficial moratorium on executions.

“This is a serious setback for human rights in Pakistan,” said Mr. Mayor, the President of ICDP. “I sincerely hope that the government will not abandon its moratorium on executions and will continue to work towards abolition of the death penalty”.

According to the United Nations more than 150 countries have now abolished the death penalty in law or do not carry out executions.

“I urge Pakistan to join the increasing number of states around the world that have abandoned executions,” said Mr. Mayor. “Pakistan should demonstrate this renewed commitment with a vote in favour of this year’s UN General Assembly resolution calling for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty.”

Federico Mayor

President of the International Commission
against the Death Penalty

**International Commission
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President

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Members

Giuliano Amato

Louise Arbour

Robert Badinter

Mohammed Bedjaoui

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Asma Jilani Jahangir

Ioanna Kuçuradi

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Rodolfo Mattarollo

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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 enriched 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.