



**International Commission  
against the Death Penalty**

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Federico Mayor

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## **Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: Maryland (USA) abolishes the death penalty**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) warmly welcomes the abolition of the death penalty in Maryland on 2 May 2013.

Overall in the USA the number of executions and death sentences are steadily declining as more states repeal capital punishment and courts resort to life imprisonment as an alternative to the death penalty.

Eighteen U.S. states have now abolished the death penalty. Maryland is the sixth state in six years to repeal the capital punishment following its abolition in Connecticut, Illinois, New Jersey, New Mexico and New York.

“I congratulate all those who have worked to abolish the death penalty in Maryland. In particular, I want to thank Governor Martin O’Malley for his leadership in banning this cruel and inhuman punishment and I hope that other US states will follow his example.” said Mr. Federico Mayor, President of ICDP.

Five prisoners remain on death row in Maryland. ICDP urges the Governor to commute their death sentences to terms of imprisonment and to close Maryland’s death row for good.

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## 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.