



**International Commission  
against the Death Penalty**

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Federico Mayor

**Members**

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Geneva, 25 June 2013

**Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: Nigeria resumes executions after 7 years.**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) condemns the executions carried out on 24 June by authorities in Nigeria.

Four men were hanged in Benin City Prison in Edo State and constituted the first executions since 2006.

Human rights groups said that Chima Ejiofor, Daniel Nsofor, Osarenwindia Aiguokhan, and Richard Igagu were executed late Monday afternoon after reportedly 16 years on death row. According to the Justice Commissioner in Edo State, Henry Idahagbon, the men were convicted of either armed robbery or murder and had exhausted their appeals.

A fifth man, Thankgod Ebhos, is reportedly at imminent risk of execution.

President Goodluck Jonathan of Nigeria recently reminded state governors that signing death warrants is their responsibility according to law. There are reportedly more than 1000 prisoners on death row.

“Executions are cruel and inhuman and do not have a deterrent effect on crime. We call on the Nigerian authorities to build a justice system that does not use capital punishment and instead promotes and protects human rights.” said Mr. Federico Mayor, President of ICDP.

The majority of states have stopped using the death penalty. According to the United Nations (UN), some 150 countries from all regions and cultures in the world have abolished capital punishment or no longer execute. These nations have accepted that state killing is wrong and fails to deter crime.

ICDP calls on Nigeria to stop any further executions, to commute all death sentences to terms of imprisonment and declare an official moratorium on executions in line with the UN General Assembly Resolutions adopted in 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012.

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President of the International Commission  
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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.