



**International Commission  
against the Death Penalty**

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Federico Mayor

**Members**

Giuliano Amato

Louise Arbour

Robert Badinter

Mohammed Bedjaoui

Ruth Dreifuss

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**Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty on the case of Pablo Ibar, Florida, USA**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) supports calls for a retrial of Pablo Ibar.

Pablo Ibar, a 41 year-old man, who is a national of the USA and Spain, is on death row in Florida State Prison, USA. He was convicted in 2000 for a triple murder committed in 1994. Pablo Ibar has always proclaimed his innocence and denied any involvement in the killings.

At his first trial in 1998 in Broward County Circuit Court the jury failed to reach a unanimous guilty verdict and a new trial was ordered. At his second trial in Florida in 2000 Pablo Ibar was found guilty and following a 9-3 recommendation from the jury, sentenced to death. His alleged accomplice, Seth Penalver, was also sentenced to death. Following a retrial Seth Penalver was acquitted on 21 December 2012 of all charges.

Pablo Ibar's lawyer was unwell during the trial which seriously hampered his ability to defend his client properly but the lawyers' requests for an adjournment were denied by the trial judge. Pablo Ibar is seeking a retrial on the grounds that he did not have proper legal representation during his 2000 trial for murder.

"Pablo Ibar did not receive a fair trial and should not have been sentenced to death", said Federico Mayor, President of ICDP. "There is a very real risk that Pablo Ibar may be executed for a crime he did not commit. For these reasons I am supporting calls to the US State of Florida to ensure that Pablo Ibar receives a retrial that meets international standards".

Eighteen states in the USA have now abolished capital punishment and others are moving in that direction. ICDP welcomes the fact that since 2000, the numbers of executions and death sentences have steadily declined as more States repeal capital punishment and courts and juries are increasingly likely to seek alternatives to the death penalty. Furthermore, according to the United Nations, some 150 countries from all regions have abolished the death penalty or do not use it. These nations are recognizing that modern justice systems can protect the public from crime without the cruelty of executions, the inherent risks of executing the innocent and the arbitrary application of capital punishment that, furthermore, has not deterrent effect.

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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.