



Geneva, 17 August 2012

International Commission  
against the Death Penalty

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**Statement by the  
International Commission against the Death Penalty  
Execution of Marvin Wilson, Texas**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) deplores and condemns the execution of Marvin Wilson in Texas, USA. Marvin Wilson was executed despite the fact that he had 'mental retardation'. The general accepted minimum level for competency is 70 but psychological test undertaken by Marvin Wilson put his IQ at only 61.

In 2002 the US Supreme Court outlawed the execution of mentally impaired persons but left it to individual States to determine what constitutes 'mental impairment'.

Marvin Wilson was convicted of killing a police informant in 2002. He was executed by lethal injection at Huntsville State Prison, Texas on 7 August 2012. He was the seventh person to be executed in Texas this year. Nine other prisoners on death row have had their execution dates set.

ICDP calls on Texas to introduce an immediate moratorium on executions and initiate an independent and comprehensive study on the use of the death penalty.

Federico Mayor  
President of the International Commission  
against the Death Penalty



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## Background

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) was founded in Madrid in October 2010. 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 non governmental organizations to further the abolition of capital punishment worldwide.

ICDP is composed of 13 personalities of high international standing from all regions of the world who act with total independence and neutrality and work under its President Federico Mayor. 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. Switzerland currently holds the Presidency of the Support Group which will pass to Norway in October this year. There is small secretariat in Geneva which is responsible for organizing the work of the ICDP.