



Geneva, 19 March 2012

**Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty  
on Belarus:  
Execution of Dmitry Konovalov and Vladislav Kovalyov**

**International Commission  
against the Death Penalty**

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The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) deplors the execution of Dmitry Konovalov and Vladislav Kovalyov.

Belarus state television reported the executions on Saturday 17 March 2012. Dmitry Konovalov and Vladislav Kovalyov, both 25 years of age, were reportedly executed soon after President Alexander Lukashenko refused clemency appeals.

Both men were sentenced to death for a bomb attack that killed 15 and injured more than 200 others at a metro station in Minsk in April 2011. The international community and human rights organizations raised serious concerns about the fairness of their trial and the imposition of the death penalty.

By carrying out these executions Belarus ignored international calls to introduce a moratorium on the use of the death penalty. Belarus is the only European country carrying out executions. Belarus is also ignoring the worldwide trend against capital punishment. Prior to these executions, the last executions in Belarus took place in July 2011.

ICDP calls on the President of Belarus to introduce a moratorium on executions and death sentences without delay, and to join the worldwide trend towards abolition of the death penalty.

Federico Mayor  
President of the International Commission  
against the Death Penalty

**Background**

ICDP opposes the imposition of the death penalty in all situations. ICDP believes that the death penalty violates the right to life proclaimed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and should not be applied in any circumstances. ICDP also recalls that there exists no evidence which confirms the deterrent effect of the death penalty.

There is a clear global trend away from capital punishment as evidenced by UN General Assembly resolutions calling for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty as a step towards abolition. More than two thirds of all states have now abolished the death penalty in law or practice.