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International Commission
against the Death Penalty

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Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: risk of imminent executions in Nigeria

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) calls for a halt in the planned executions of Daniel Nsofor and Osayinwinde Agbomien in Edo State, Nigeria.

Daniel Nsofor and Osayinwinde Agbomien were convicted of murder and are on death row in Oko prison, Benin City. Their execution warrants were signed by the Governor of Edo State even though the two prisoners are party to an appeal against their death sentences.

The execution warrants were signed after reports that the Oko prison was becoming 'unmanageable', following disturbances and an attempted breakout. But carrying out executions in order to maintain prison discipline would be a clear violation of the prisoners' right to life.

Neither the two inmates nor their families have been informed of the planned date of the executions although the gallows have been prepared for the hangings. Oka prison authorities have refused to confirm or deny when the executions will take place.

According to the Office of the Federal Attorney General and the Minister of Justice there is a voluntary de facto moratorium on executions in Nigeria since 2006. The continuation of a self-imposed moratorium was also officially confirmed during the Universal Periodic Review of Nigeria by the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2009.

There are approximately 920 prisoners on death row in Nigeria

ICDP calls on Nigeria to uphold its moratorium on executions and initiate an independent and comprehensive study on its 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 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 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. There is a small secretariat in Geneva which is responsible for organizing the work of the ICDP.