



International Commission
against the Death Penalty

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Giuliano Amato

Louise Arbour

Robert Badinter

Mohammed Bedjaoui

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Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: Surge in executions in Iran

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) condemns the dramatic surge in executions in Iran.

According to official and unofficial reports Iran has executed 81 prisoners in the last 10 days of this month.

The number of executions this year is now estimated to be in excess of 400. Compared with 2011 this is a continued increase in executions at the time when the global trend is towards abolition of the death penalty. Iran's prolific use of the death penalty also runs counter to the repeated calls by the UN General Assembly for a moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

More than 80% of those executed are drug offenders and a number of these hangings are carried out in public.

"While recognizing the importance of combatting drug crimes this must be done without recourse to the death penalty," said Mr. Mayor, President of ICDP. Furthermore, there exists no conclusive evidence that the death penalty deters serious crime.

According to the United Nations more than 150 countries have abolished the death penalty or do not execute.

ICDP calls on Iran to halt all further executions and implement an immediate moratorium on its use of the death penalty.

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President of the International Commission
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BACKGROUND

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) was founded in Madrid in October 2010. ICDP is composed of 14 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.