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**Statement by the
International Commission against the Death Penalty
on the Imminent Risk of Execution of Malaysian
Citizen Yong Vui Kong in Singapore**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) is deeply concerned about the information on the imminent risk of execution of the Malaysian citizen Yong Vui Kong, who was sentenced to death for drug-trafficking.

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, that was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1966, and has been ratified by 167 States, establishes in its Article 6.2 that "sentence of death may be imposed only for the most serious crimes". According to Safeguard 1 of the Safeguards Guaranteeing Protection of the Rights of Those Facing the Death Penalty, adopted by the UN Economic and Social Council in 1984, the scope of the most serious crimes "should not go beyond intentional crimes, with lethal or other extremely grave consequences." Furthermore, the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions has stated that "the death penalty should be eliminated for crimes such as economic crimes and drug-related offences". Consequently, drug-trafficking must not be included as a crime punishable by death.

On the other hand, the mandatory imposition of the death penalty must be eradicated from the legislation of Singapore because, as stated by the UN Human Rights Committee, "the automatic and mandatory imposition of the death penalty constitutes an arbitrary deprivation of life, in violation of article 6, paragraph 1, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights".

The death penalty must never be applied in any circumstances, regardless of the gravity of the crime. The death penalty undermines human dignity and violates the right to life recognized by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Furthermore, there exists no conclusive evidence on the deterrent effect of the death penalty.

ICDP underlines the worldwide trend towards the abolition of capital punishment which was confirmed by the UNGA Resolution 65/206 on a Moratorium on the Use of the Death Penalty adopted on the 21 December 2010, a fact that should be taken into consideration by the authorities of Singapore.

ICDP urges the President of Singapore S. R. Nathan to reconsider Yong Vui Kong's petition for clemency and to commute his death sentence.

Federico Mayor
President of the International Commission
against the Death Penalty