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PRESS RELEASE

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) met on 3 and 4 February in Madrid with the aim to analyze the situation of the death penalty in the different regions of the world and to continue to promote the universal abolition.

During the meeting, the ICDP attached a particular importance to the third resolution on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 21 December 2010, which confirms the clear and continuous trend towards the abolition of the death penalty.

ICDP has welcomed the numerous efforts which are being made with the same objective by representatives of the civil society, international and regional Organizations, as well as by other political leaders. During this meeting the ICDP has met with representatives of NGOs working in this area in order to strengthen the collaboration with them.

ICDP has analyzed the situation of the death penalty in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, and has adopted several actions which should be taken in a number of countries selected where most of the death sentences are imposed and most of the executions are taking place. During the next meeting, the ICDP will discuss the situation in the Americas.

ICDP recalls that the State should guarantee the security for all on the basis of unrestricted respect for human rights, always bearing in mind the essential duty of protection and redress for victims.

ICDP will continue to demand firmly the right to life and human dignity, which are inherent to every human being. The death penalty has no deterrent effect on crime. No justice system, no matter how developed it might be, can avoid the execution of an innocent person.

ICDP will continue to raise its voice in order to oppose executions still carried out by countries, in particular, in those cases in which International Law explicitly prohibits or limits the application of the death penalty, especially in the cases of mentally ill and child offenders.

The next meeting of the International Commission against the Death Penalty will take place next June.

Madrid, 4 February 2011