



International Commission
against the Death Penalty

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**Statement by the
International Commission against the Death Penalty
on South Korea's 5000th day without executions**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) wishes to congratulate South Korea on the occasion of its 5,000th day free of executions on 8 September 2011.

South Korea carried out its last execution in December 1997, which means that it has been applying a de facto moratorium for nearly fourteen years, even though its tribunals still impose death sentences.

ICDP was founded in order to obtain the establishment of a universal moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to its total abolition, and to call for the suspension of executions in cases where International Law prohibits or restricts its application.

ICDP believes that the death penalty violates the right to life recognized by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and that it should not be applied whatever the circumstances. ICDP also underlines that there exists no scientific proof that the death penalty deters crime effectively.

ICDP therefore wants to encourage South Korea to mark this anniversary by taking steps towards the total abolition of the death penalty, which would be in line with the worldwide trend towards the abolition of the death penalty that was confirmed by the recent adoption of the UNGA Resolution 65/206 on a Moratorium on the Use of the Death Penalty on 21 December 2010.

Federico Mayor
President of the International Commission
against the Death Penalty