



International Commission
against the Death Penalty

President

Federico Mayor

Members

Giuliano Amato

Louise Arbour

Robert Badinter

Mohammed Bedjaoui

Ruth Dreifuss

Michèle Duvivier

Pierre-Louis

Asma Jilani Jahangir

Ioanna Kuçuradi

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Rodolfo Mattarollo

Ibrahim Najjar

Bill Richardson

Honorary Member

José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero

Secretariat

Rue Rothschild 20, TL 004

CH-1202 Geneva

Switzerland

Tel: +41 22 908 44 22

Fax: +41 22 908 62 62

asunta.vivo@icomdp.org

info@icomdp.org

www.icomdp.org

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Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: executions in Iraq continue

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) condemns the recent wave of executions in Iraq.

According to reports, Iraq has already executed 22 prisoners in March and April and there are fears that more hangings could be imminent. Four men were executed on 1 April. Iraqi authorities carried out eighteen executions on 14 and 17 March.

“Iraq’s continued use of the death penalty runs counter to the global trend where more than two-thirds of the countries have abolished capital punishment,” said Mr. Mayor, President of ICDP.

The majority of states have stopped using the death penalty. According to the United Nations (UN), some 150 countries from all regions in the world and cultures have abolished capital punishment or no longer execute. These nations have accepted that state killing is wrong and fails to deter crime.

ICDP calls on the Iraqi authorities to not carry out any further executions, commute all death sentences to terms of imprisonment and declare an official moratorium on executions in line with the UN General Assembly Resolutions adopted in 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012.

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BACKGROUND

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. Its secretariat is based in Geneva.