



ICDP's participation in the 5th World Congress against the Death Penalty

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) participated in 5th World Congress against the Death Penalty (World Congress or Madrid Congress) which took place in Madrid, Spain between 12 to 15 June 2013. The ICDP delegation at the World Congress was led by its President Federico Mayor and included Commissioners Robert Badinter, Hanne Sophie Greve and Rodolfo Mattarollo. Since 2001 those involved in the international movement for the repeal of capital punishment have convened every three years for a World Congress against the Death Penalty organized by Ensemble Contre la Peine de Mort (ECPM – Together against the Death Penalty) in partnership with the World Coalition against the Death Penalty. The first World Congress took place in Strasbourg in 2001, followed by Montreal in 2004, Paris in 2007, and Geneva in 2010.

The 5th World Congress was held in Madrid at the invitation of the Spanish Government, and with the support of the Governments of France, Norway and Switzerland. ICDP was a supporter of the 5th World Congress. The four-day Congress brought together international experts, campaigners and high-profile figures including Nobel Peace Prize laureates, ex-death row inmates and families of people sentenced to death from over 90 countries. In meetings the participants reviewed death penalty developments and discussed abolitionist strategies.

On the opening day of the Congress ICDP's President Federico Mayor and Commissioner Rodolfo Mattarollo met with Mr. Didier Burkhalter, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland and Mr. Laurent Fabius, Minister of Foreign Affairs of France for an exchange of views on abolition of the death penalty, to thank for their support to ICDP and exploring future avenues of mutual collaboration.

ICDP Commissioners Hanne Sophie Greve, Rodolfo Mattarollo, Robert Badinter and Secretary-General Asunta Vivo participated as panelists in several meetings and workshops. Commissioner Hanne Sophie Greve gave a keynote speech in the Workshop 'Terrorism and abolition - the consequences of terrorism on abolitionist strategies'. Commissioner Rodolfo Mattarollo participated as speaker in the Roundtable 'Legal and diplomatic strategies for foreigners sentenced to death - How to reconcile legal and diplomatic strategies to optimize their complementarity?'. Commissioner Robert Badinter took the floor during the Workshop 'Abolitionist strategies: the campaign for abolition in California' and participated as speaker in the Workshop 'China: which communication tools for the legal community?'. Secretary-General Asunta Vivó participated as speaker in the Workshop 'Intergovernmental organisations and civil society'. President Federico Mayor was one of the keynote speakers during the closing session of the Congress. In his speech President Mayor welcomed the creation of a Parliamentary network as well as a network of Universities committed to abolition of capital punishment. He also called on the abolitionist movement to intensify its efforts and to reach out to other networks in order to strengthen its efforts towards worldwide abolition of the death penalty.

During the Congress, ICDP's delegation and Secretariat held bilateral meetings with representatives of governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and academics to discuss death penalty developments, strategies and areas of future cooperation.

Articles about ICDP and the death penalty were published in advance of the Congress an edited volume titled:"Catalogo de Goya", in a supplement devoted to the Congress in the El Pais Semanal, in a French magazine called "Altermondes" and in a magazine Tiempo de Paz . An Opinion Editorial article by President Mayor was published in International Press Service (IPS) in advance of the Congress (<http://www.ipsnoticias.net/2013/05/columna-un-congreso-para-liberar-al-mundo-de-la-pena-de-muerte/>). Members of the delegation also gave numerous media interviews including radio, television, newspapers and periodicals.

The Madrid Congress ended with calls for the next World Congress to be held in a country that still retains the death penalty. For further information about the 5th World Congress against the Death Penalty in Madrid and its final declaration, please see: <http://congres.abolition.fr>