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**Statement by the
International Commission against the Death Penalty
on the Possible Execution of Fouad Ahmad Ali
Abdallah al-Shehari in Yemen**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) expresses its deep concern on the possible imminent execution of Fouad Ahmad Ali Abdallah al-Shehari for a crime he committed in 2004 when he was 16 years old according to his birth certificate.

ICDP was founded in order to obtain the establishment of a universal moratorium on the use of the death penalty as a first step towards its total abolition and to solicit the suspension of executions in cases where International Law restricts its application, in particular, when it affects the most vulnerable groups of society.

ICDP recalls that the execution of child offenders is clearly prohibited by international human rights standards set out in several international instruments and more specifically by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which Yemen has ratified on 1 May 1991. Art. 37 (a) of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, stipulates that all States Parties shall ensure that "Neither capital punishment nor life imprisonment without possibility of release shall be imposed for offences committed by persons below eighteen years of age". Furthermore, the imposition of the death sentence on minors is also contrary to the article 31 of the Yemeni Penal Code.

Persons below 18 years of age at the time of the commission of the crime shall not be sentenced to death, as it is established in one of the Safeguards Guaranteeing Protection of the Rights of Those Facing the Death Penalty, adopted by the UN Economic and Social Council in 1984.

ICDP urges the Yemeni authorities to commute the sentence of Fouad Ahmad Ali Abdallah al-Shehari in compliance with international standards and Human Rights.



Federico Mayor
President of the International Commission
against the Death Penalty