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ICDP 02/2020

International Commission
against the Death Penalty

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Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty:

ICDP is awarded the 2020 North-South Prize of the Council of Europe

On 14 December 2020, the International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP or Commission) received the very happy news that the Commission has been awarded the prestigious 2020 North-South Prize of the Council of Europe. We consider it a privilege to be sharing this award with the Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change. ICDP would like to accept this award with gratitude from the jury of the North-South Prize of the Council of Europe.

For ICDP, the award is a timely recognition of the incredible work of our 22 Commissioners under the Presidency of Judge Navi Pillay, our Support Group comprising of 23 Member-States, the Secretariat on our tenth anniversary. We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to our allies and friends in the death penalty abolitionist movement. As we receive this honour, ICDP renews its commitment to the objective of a world free of the death penalty.

“ICDP notes that the North-South Prize of the Council of Europe Laureates are persons and organizations who have distinguished themselves in the areas of protection of human rights, defence of pluralist democracy, public awareness raising on issues of global interdependence and solidarity. ICDP accepts this award with humility as we receive this prize at a time of a disastrous health pandemic that has impacted the world, including Europe, and has highlighted the limitations of the human rights progress that has been achieved since the World War II. The health crisis has underlined the huge inequalities existing in our world today and the sustainable solutions can only be found with a human rights-oriented approach. In this context, we are aware of new challenges to the fundamental right to life and we take this milestone achievement to renew the hope that is needed to end the outmoded, cruel, inhuman and degrading practice of the death penalty globally,” said ICDP President Navi Pillay.

Background

Composed of 22 Commissioners, who are persons of high international standing and who represent all regions of the world, ICDP acts with total independence and neutrality and works under its President Judge Navi Pillay. ICDP opposes the death penalty under any circumstances believing that it violates the right to life enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The work of ICDP is supported by a diverse group of 23 Member-States from all parts of the world that are committed to the abolition of the death penalty. Its Secretariat is based in Madrid.

The Commission 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.

ICDP works with the United Nations and other international and regional organizations including the Council of Europe, governments and nongovernmental organizations to further the abolition of capital punishments worldwide.