



International Commission
against the Death Penalty

President

Navanethem (Navi) Pillay

Vice-Presidents

Ruth Dreifuss

Ibrahim Najjar

Members

Marc Bossuyt

Helen Clark

Marzuki Darusman

Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis

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Ioanna Kuçuradi

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Marta Santos Pais

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Giuliano Amato

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Federico Mayor Zaragoza

Bill Richardson

José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero

Marta Vilardell

Founding Members

Rodolfo Mattarollo,
(1939-2014)

Asma Jilani Jahangir
(1952-2018)

Secretariat

Pl. Marqués de Salamanca, 8
Planta 2, A.02, 125
28071 Madrid, Spain
Tel: +00 34 91 3799458
asunta.vivo@icomdp.org
info@icomdp.org

Madrid, 9 December 2021
ICDP 11/2021

Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: ICDP receives the 2020 North-South Prize of the Council of Europe at the Portuguese Parliament, Lisbon

On 9 December 2021, the International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP or Commission) received the prestigious 2020 North-South Prize of the Council of Europe. ICDP was represented by Commissioner Marta Santos Pais in person with a video message from President Judge Navi Pillay. The award ceremony was held at the Sala do Senado, Palácio de São Bento, Lisbon in the presence of President of the Republic HE Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, the President of the National Assembly of Portugal HE Eduardo Ferro Rodrigues, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe HE Bjørn Berge. ICDP accepts this award with gratitude.

ICDP received the news of the award on 14 December 2020, and we consider it a privilege to be sharing this award with the Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Change. The North-South Prize is awarded by the European Centre for global interdependence and solidarity, more commonly known as the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, which is based in Lisbon.

“ICDP accepts this award with deep gratitude. The North South Prize is a source of inspiration for the Commission, and we reiterate our strong commitment to pursue our mission with renewed vigour, to achieve the goal of a world free from the death penalty, a world where this cruel, inhuman and degrading practice is globally abolished. We accept this award with humility, at a time of a disastrous health pandemic that has impacted the world and compromised progress in the realization of human rights, presenting new challenges to the safeguard of the fundamental right to life. We accept this award with pride as an acknowledgement of ICDP’s achievements since its creation in October 2010. I would like to take this opportunity to express ICDP’s heartfelt appreciation to our allies and friends in the death penalty abolitionist movement,” said ICDP President Navi Pillay.

“It is with great happiness and pride that I received the prestigious North-South Prize today on behalf of the International Commission against the Death Penalty in the national parliament of my own country, Portugal,” said ICDP Commissioner Marta Santos Pais. She further acknowledged that “The Laureates of the North-South Prize of the Council of Europe are persons and organizations who have distinguished themselves for their commitment to human rights, democracy and the rule of law. All the awardees have, in common, a strong determination to promote North-South dialogue, cooperation and partnerships. My fellow-Commissioners come from countries in the North and in the South, as do the Member-States of the Support Group of the Commission. The North South Prize reenergizes us to pursue our mission with reinvigorated enthusiasm. Together, we can move faster and further in our pursuit of a world free of the death penalty.”



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Background

Composed of 24 Commissioners of high international standing following decades' long, highly respected experiences in public service and representing all regions of the world, ICDP acts with total independence under the guidance of President Judge Navi Pillay.

The Commission promotes the abolition of capital punishment in law in states that observe a de facto moratorium on the use of the death penalty and promotes moratoriums on executions in states that retain capital punishment. ICDP works with the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, governments, and nongovernmental organizations to advocate for worldwide abolition of the death penalty.

The work of ICDP is supported by a geographically diverse group of 23 Member-States who are committed to the abolition of the death penalty. Its Secretariat is based in Madrid and is responsible for the day-to-day work of the Commission.