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against the Death Penalty**

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**Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: Equatorial Guinea excludes the death penalty for ordinary crimes from its new Penal Code**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP or Commission) welcomes Equatorial Guinea's announcement of the abolition of the death penalty. The new Penal Code, approved by Law 4/2022 of 17 August and signed by President Obiang Nguema Mbasogo on 7 September 2022, will enter into force 90 days after its publication.

"ICDP welcomes the exclusion of the death penalty from the criminal sanctions foreseen for ordinary crimes by the new Code. We call on President Obiang to further pursue these efforts by extending abolition to crimes committed under military justice and by making the country constitutionally abolitionist. By doing so, he will leave a legacy of deepening respect and protection of the fundamental human right to life," said ICDP President Navi Pillay.

ICDP also calls on Equatorial Guinea to consolidate this significant domestic move away from the death penalty by adopting the necessary measures to become a State Party to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the global treaty aiming at the abolition of capital punishment.

**Background**

Composed of 24 Commissioners of high international standing from all regions of the world, the ICDP acts with total independence and neutrality. The Commission works under its President Navanethem (Navi) Pillay.

ICDP opposes the death penalty under any circumstances and is committed to the abolition of this cruel and inhuman punishment which violates the right to life enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Commission promotes the abolition of the capital punishment in law in those States that observe a *de facto* moratorium on the use of the death penalty and promotes the moratorium on executions in those States that resort to the death penalty. In states that continue to carry out executions, the 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 the capital punishment worldwide.

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



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