



Madrid, 28 November 2022

ICDP 10/2022

**International Commission
against the Death Penalty**

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Navanethem (Navi) Pillay

Vice Presidents

Ruth Dreifuss

Ibrahim Najjar

Members

Marc Bossuyt

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José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero

Marta Vilardell

Founding Members

Rodolfo Mattarollo

(1939-2014)

Asma Jilani Jahangir

(1952-2018)

Secretariat

Pl. Marqués de Salamanca, 8

P.02.020, 28006

Madrid, Spain

Tel: +00 34 91 3799458

rajiv.narayan@icomdp.org

Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: ICDP Participates in the 8th World Congress against the Death Penalty

A delegation of the International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) participated in the 8th World Congress against the Death Penalty, which was held in Berlin from 14 to 18 November 2022. The ICDP delegation included former President of Mongolia Commissioner Tsakhia Elbegdorj, former Governor of the US state of Maryland Commissioner Martin O'Malley and former Judge of the European Court of Human Rights Hanne Sophie Greve. The three Commissioners were accompanied by the ICDP Secretariat.

On 14 November, Commissioner Elbegdorj and Commissioner O'Malley participated in an event on the death penalty organized by the Embassy of Italy to Germany, organized jointly with the NGO Community Sant'Egidio.

On 15 November, Commissioner Elbegdorj participated in the plenary panel on the instrumentalization of the death penalty for political purposes, reflecting on his personal experience repealing capital punishment in Mongolia highlighting the importance of political leadership, which he pointed out was key in achieving abolition of the death penalty in his country.

On 16 November, Commissioners Elbegdorj and O'Malley met with the Minister of Justice of Malawi HE Mr Titus Mvalo and Minister of Justice of Zambia HE Mr Mulambo Haimbe to discuss the steps being taken in both countries towards abolition. Commissioner Greve delivered the introductory speech at a panel on sexual violence and the death penalty.

The next day, Commissioner O'Malley participated in a panel on politics, human rights and the death penalty in the United States of America (US). He gave an overview of the state of play in the US at the federal, state and UN levels, and reflected on his experience of abolishing capital punishment in Maryland.

On 17 November, ICDP organized a panel where it launched a new publication titled, "How States Abolish the Death Penalty: A Supplement of Case Studies," (see link: <https://icomdp.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/HOW-STATES-ABOLISH-THE-DEATH-PENALTY-A-SUPPLEMENT-OF-CASE-STUDIES.pdf>) which includes 19 case studies of countries and US states as they moved away from the death penalty to eventual abolition. Commissioners Elbegdorj, O'Malley and Greve were joined by US death row exoneree Joaquín José Martínez and Spanish Foreign Ministry Senior Advisor Asunta Vivó in a discussion moderated by ICDP Executive Director Dr Rajiv Narayan.

During the World Congress, ICDP Commissioners and the ICDP Secretariat were able to engage with senior diplomats and focal points of ICDP's Support Group Member-States, public officials, key stakeholders, prominent NGOs and activists.



North-South Prize
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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 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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