



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  
Tsakhia Elbegdorj  
Hanne Sophie Greve  
Sylvie Kayitesi  
Ioanna Kuçuradi  
Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo  
Martin Joseph O'Malley  
Marta Santos Pais  
Ivan Simonovic  
Horacio Verbitsky

**Honorary Members**

Giuliano Amato  
Louise Arbour  
Robert Badinter  
Mohammed Bedjaoui  
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  
P.02.020, 28006  
Madrid, Spain  
Tel: +00 34 91 3799458  
[rajiv.narayan@icomdp.org](mailto:rajiv.narayan@icomdp.org)

Madrid, 23 November 2022

ICDP 11/2022

**Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: Kuwait resumes executions after more than five years by carrying out executions of seven persons**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) strongly condemns the executions of seven persons, including two women, carried out by authorities in Kuwait on Wednesday, 16 November 2022, after a five-year hiatus on executions, with the last execution being carried out in January 2017.

According to reports reaching ICDP, the seven people included two women – one a Kuwaiti national and the other an Ethiopian national, and five men – three Kuwaiti nationals, one Syrian national and a Pakistani national. They had been sentenced to death between 2008 and 2019 in separate murder cases, and their executions, all by hanging, were carried out in the Central Prison of Kuwait.

“I join ICDP Commissioners in expressing our deep concern at the resumption of executions in Kuwait. We believe that those found guilty of serious crimes should receive appropriate punishment but clearly the capital punishment is not that punishment. In ICDP’s experience, the capital punishment does not lessen the pain of the victims and does not deter crime and fails to deter crime more effectively than other punishments. The death penalty is a cruel and inhuman punishment that amounts to a denial of human dignity and integrity. Noting this, ICDP calls on the Kuwait government to stop carrying out any further executions, to observe a moratorium while carrying out steps to move away from the death penalty and towards the better respect, protection of human dignity,” said ICDP President Judge Navi Pillay.

**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.



North-South Prize  
of the Council of Europe