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against the Death Penalty

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**Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: ICDP Commissioner Hanne Sophie Greve participates in a panel on the death penalty at the Council of Europe**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) welcomes the recent thematic discussion on the abolition of the death penalty by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (Committee of Ministers), held on 5 April in Strasbourg, with the participation of ICDP Commissioner and former judge at the European Court of Human Rights Hanne Sophie Greve.

Participants at the discussion included Ndumé Olatushani, who spent 20 years on death row for a crime he never committed; Richard Sédillot, lawyer specialised in the defence of persons sentenced to death throughout the world and member of Ensemble contre la peine de mort; and Anna Savchenko, director of "72 Hours" on executions in Belarus. The Council of Europe Deputy Secretary General, Bjorn Berge, and the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Marija Pejčinović Burić also spoke at the event. ICDP In her intervention, Commissioner Greve highlighted the "need to visibly reassure people of the value of human life as such, of the value of every single life."

The Committee of Ministers adopted a set of decisions on the abolition of the death penalty on the same day. It reiterated the Council of Europe's aim to create a death penalty-free zone in Europe and beyond, called on States to stand firm in their commitment and to promote the global abolition of capital punishment.

ICDP expresses its appreciation for the Committee of Ministers' efforts towards the committing and supporting the global movement for abolition of the death penalty, especially in Europe and for the speakers' contributions to the discussion. ICDP looks forward to continuing its collaboration with the Council of Europe towards achieving the shared goal of worldwide abolition of the death penalty.

**Background**

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

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 advocates for a moratorium on executions in States that rarely use the death penalty. ICDP works with the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, governments, and nongovernmental organizations to further the abolition of capital punishment worldwide. The work of ICDP is supported by a group of Member States from all regions of the world that 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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