



International Commission
against the Death Penalty

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Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: ICDP participates in the Regional Congress on the Death Penalty in Jordan

ICDP participated in the Regional Congress on the Death Penalty in Amman: Vice President Ibrahim Najjar participated with a pre-recorded message, which was broadcast during the opening ceremony on 11 July 2023. ICDP Executive Director Rajiv Narayan is attending the Regional Congress.

In his intervention, Vice President Najjar provided an overview on the situation of the death penalty in the Middle East, suggesting new avenues for advocacy in moving new countries towards abolition or moratoriums on executions. He emphasized that the death penalty was not the answer to crime and does not serve as a substitute for fair and just governance, and concluded that alternatives such as forgiveness, pardon, diya (blood money) and religious edicts, could be employed. He highlighted the example of Lebanon, which has not implemented the death penalty since 2004, with a law on reducing penalties being amended in 2011. Since 2020, the country has voted in favour the United Nations General Assembly resolution on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, which could be an entry point for not applying the death penalty in other countries of the Middle East region.

The regional conference, the first in the Middle East region, is being hosted by civil society organizations Together Against the Death Penalty (ECPM), Penal Reform International, and Adaleh Center for Human Rights Studies on 11 and 12 July featuring presentations, discussions, workshops featuring the participations of specialists, attorneys, judges, academics, NGO representatives, journalists, and diplomats.

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



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