



Kuala Lumpur, 14 September 2023
ICDP 012/2023

**International Commission
against the Death Penalty
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Navanethem (Navi) Pillay

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(1939-2014)

Asma Jilani Jahangir

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Bill Richardson (1947-2023)

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North-South Prize
of the Council of Europe

**Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty:
Mission to Malaysia**

An ICDP delegation led by Commissioners Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, former President of the Philippines, and Ruth Dreifuss, former President of Switzerland, visited Kuala Lumpur on 13 and 14 September to congratulate the Malaysian Government for abolishing the mandatory death penalty. The delegation met with Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reforms) Azalina Othman Said, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Institutional Reforms) Ramkarpal Singh, Minister of Health Zaliha Mustafa, Speaker Johari Abdul, members of the Parliamentary Select Committee for Human Rights and noted that the abolition of mandatory death penalty was an important step taken by Malaysia as an eminent member State of the Organization of Islamic Conference.

During the discussions, the delegation welcomed the legal amendments that granted judges' discretionary power on death penalty cases including reviewing death sentences previously issued. They also welcomed other effects of the legal reforms including reduction of crimes punishable by the death penalty and the limitation of the life-long imprisonment. ICDP Commissioners were informed about the possibility of future steps to reduce the scope of the death penalty, for which there was a recognition of continued moratorium of the death penalty.

The delegation met with civil society organizations including those organizations leading the abolition of the death penalty. They included two organizations of Malaysian nationals facing the death penalty in Singapore.

Background

Composed of 23 Commissioners of high international standing following decades' long, highly respected experiences in public service and representing all regions of the world, ICDP acts with total independence under the leadership of President Judge Navi Pillay.

The Commission promotes the abolition of capital punishment in law in States that observe a *de facto* moratorium on the use of the death penalty and promotes moratoriums on executions in States that retain capital punishment. ICDP works with the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, governments, and nongovernmental organizations to advocate for worldwide abolition of the death penalty.

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