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**International Commission
against the Death Penalty**

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North-South Prize
of the Council of Europe

Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: ICDP Awarded René Cassin Human Rights Award by the Basque Government

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP or Commission) is happily honoured to announce that the Commission has been awarded the prestigious Premio René Cassin de Derechos Humanos (René Cassin Human Rights Award). The Award, established in 2003 by the Spanish provincial Government of the Basque Country, celebrates outstanding contributions to the advancement and defence of human rights globally. It recognizes the relentless dedication of individuals and groups in championing human rights causes and underscores the crucial importance of advocating for the protection and promotion of human rights worldwide. The award ceremony is scheduled to take place on 11 December at Palace Villa Suso in Vitoria in the distinguished presence of the President of the Basque Government Iñigo Urkullu.

"We are deeply honoured and humbled to receive the René Cassin Human Rights Award. This prestigious Award is a recognition of ICDP's commitment, its relentless struggle, and efforts in making the world free of the death penalty and moving countries away from capital punishment to better respect, fulfil and respect the fundamental human right of life. The Award is a great motivation for our work and very timely as it is the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, one of the contributions of René Cassin," said ICDP President Judge Navi Pillay.

"It is with great happiness that I will be in Vitoria to receive the René Cassin Human Rights Award in person representing ICDP. Receiving this highly respected accolade gives us a chance to reflect on our work, especially linking it to the various human rights violations affected by the continued implementation of capital punishment, including its terrible impact on vulnerable sections of society including children, youth, women, the elderly, marginalized sections of society," said ICDP Commissioner Marta Santos Pais.

The 2023 René Cassin Award provides a welcome spotlight to the pivotal, collaborative, and complementary role played by ICDP's key stakeholders led by its distinguished Commissioners from all parts of the world, supported by its Support Group of Member States from all regions of the world, and coordinated by its Secretariat.

Background

The International Commission against the Death Penalty is composed of 23 Commissioners of high international standing from all parts of the world, under the leadership of President Navanethem (Navi) Pillay, the former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. ICDP's work is supported by a group of 23 Member States from all regions of the world. Its Secretariat is based in Madrid, Spain, and is responsible for the day-to-day work of the Commission.

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.