



**International Commission  
against the Death Penalty**

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Navanethem (Navi) Pillay

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Rodolfo Mattarollo

(1939-2014)

Asma Jilani Jahangir

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**Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: An important initiative for high-level delegations from neighbouring Zambia and Malawi to share experiences on abolishing the death penalty**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP or Commission), the human rights NGO Reprieve and the Ministry of Justice in Zambia cooperated in organizing an important dialogue initiative between key stakeholders of Malawi and Zambia on the issue of the death penalty. The initiative involved high-level government officials of the two countries, who met between late October and early November for a series of impactful engagements aimed at sharing experiences in advancing the abolition of the death penalty in both countries.

In the first leg, a high-level Zambian delegation led by Hon. Attorney General Mulilo Kabesha, SC, and comprising of Members of the Parliamentary Committee on Law, Human Rights and Governance Hon. Dr Clement Andeleki, MP (former Chair) and Hon. Muyitu Chinga, MP (the current Chair), visited Lilongwe between 25 October and 1 November 2023. The delegation shared insights on the successful abolition of the death penalty in Zambia in December 2022 and had collaborative discussions with Hon. Minister of Justice Titus Mvalo, Solicitor General Allison Mbang'ombe, Attorney General Thabo Chakaka-Nyirenda, Members of Parliamentary Committee on Legal Affairs (PLAC) led by the Chair Dr Albert Mbawala, Minister of Local Government, Unity and Culture Richard Chimwenda Banda, MP, the leader of the Opposition Kondwani Nankhumwa, MP, the National Human Rights Commission of Malawi and important NGOs.

In the second leg of the exchange visits, a high-level delegation from Malawi visited Lusaka from 5 November to 9 November 2023. The delegation, comprised of six Members of Parliament led by the Chair of the PLAC Dr Mbawala, MP, had enlightening discussions with key stakeholders involved in the abolition of the death penalty in Zambia including Hon. Minister of Justice Mulambo Haimbe, Hon. Attorney General Kabesha, Hon. Solicitor General Marshall, with Members of Parliament of the Parliamentary Committee on Law, Human Rights and Governance led by Hon. Chinga, MP, with Chief Justice Mumba Malila and fellow judges, with the National Human Rights Commission of Zambia and the Zambian Law Development Commission. Additionally, the Malawi delegation, accompanied by the Director of Public Prosecution Masuoko Chamkakala and led by Zambian Commissioner General Frederick Chilukutu, made an impactful visit to the Mukobeko Maximum Correctional Facility in Kabwe, where the last executions were carried out in 1997. The delegation also had an important dinner meeting with important CSO and NGOs including people who had been released after facing the death penalty.

These meetings provided invaluable platforms deepening close connections between key stakeholders as they shared perspectives, exchanged ideas, while building a collaborative framework towards the shared goal of abolishing the death penalty while fostering connections.

The International Commission against the Death Penalty applauds the dedication of all stakeholders involved in this important initiative and remains committed to supporting



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both Zambia and Malawi on their historic journeys towards ending the cruel, inhuman colonial legacy of the death penalty.

## 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 Judge 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.



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