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ICDP 04/2024

**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 warmly welcomes former Taoiseach Enda Kenny as its new Commissioner**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP or Commission) is delighted to announce the appointment of Mr Enda Kenny as its newest Commissioner.

Mr. Kenny has served as Taoiseach (Prime Minister) of Ireland and brings with him exceptional experience as a political leader and a veteran parliamentarian with a firm commitment to the protection of human rights, including his public opposition to death penalty.

During his tenure as Taoiseach (Prime Minister) in 2017, Mr. Kenny assisted in the release of 21-year-old Ibrahim Halawa, an Irish national, who had been arrested at the age of 17 during a family holiday in the Egyptian capital of Cairo on charges of participating in a political protest. The charges carried the possibility of Mr Halawa being sentenced to death. Mr. Kenny sent an urgent letter to Egyptian President Abdel el-Sisi and subsequently met with President el-Sisi at the United Nations in New York. Mr. Halawa Ibrahim was finally acquitted of all the charges against him and released on 20 October 2017.

The political leadership of Mr. Kenny is exemplary. In February 2011, when Ireland faced one of the worst economic and financial crises, the liberal-conservative Fine Gael party, which he had led since 2002, formed the Government in coalition with the Labour party, becoming the first force in the Dáil for the first time in its 78-years history. After the 2016 general elections, which were followed by two months of tough negotiations, Mr. Kenny was re-elected as Taoiseach. He retired as Taoiseach in 2017 and retired from politics in 2020.

**Background**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty is composed of 24 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 24 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.