



Madrid, 29 October 2024

**International Commission
against the Death Penalty**

ICDP 12/2024

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Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: ICDP delegation visits Taiwan and Japan

A delegation of the International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP or Commission) visited Taipei, Taiwan and Tokyo, Japan in October 2024.

The delegation to Taipei was led by ICDP Commissioner Barbara Lochbihler and the ICDP Secretariat from 3 to 8 October. During this mission, the delegation participated in an international conference on 5 and 6 October titled, "Let There Be Light at the End of Darkness: The Next Step for Taiwan After the Abolition of the Death Penalty." The conference was very timely following the Taiwan Constitutional Court's ruling on 20 September that the death penalty is constitutional with several restrictions in its application. The delegation met with the Chair and Commissioners of the National Human Rights Commission of Taiwan, diplomatic representatives of several delegations based in Taipei and national and international NGOs.

An ICDP delegation comprising of Secretariat staff visited Tokyo, Japan from 8 to 13 October to gain a better understanding of the death penalty in the country. The delegation held productive meetings with experts including academics, lawyers, NGOs and diplomatic representatives from ICDP's Support Group.

Background

The International Commission against the Death Penalty is currently composed of 26 Commissioners of high international standing following highly respected careers in public service and representing all regions of the world. The Commission 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 Support Group of 24 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.



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