



International Commission
against the Death Penalty

President

Navanethem (Navi) Pillay

Vice Presidents

Ruth Dreifuss

Ibrahim Najjar

Members

Michelle Bachelet

Marc Bossuyt

Helen Clark

Marzuki Darusman

Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis

Tsakhia Elbegdorj

Hanne Sophie Greve

Sylvie Kayitesi

Enda Kenny

Ioanna Kuçuradi

Barbara Lochbihler

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Dannel Malloy

Marta Santos Pais

Ivan Simonovic

Horacio Verbitsky

Honorary Members

Giuliano Amato

Louise Arbour

Mohammed Bedjaoui

Federico Mayor Zaragoza

Martin Joseph O'Malley

José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero

Marta Vilardell

Founding Members

Rodolfo Mattarollo

(1939-2014)

Asma Jilani Jahangir

(1952-2018)

Bill Richardson

(1947-2023)

Robert Badinter

(1928-2024)

Secretariat

Pl. Marqués de Salamanca 8

28006 Madrid, Spain

+00 34 91 3799458

info@icomdp.org

Madrid, 17 December 2024

ICDP 15/2024

Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: ICDP welcomes the passage of death penalty abolition bill by Zimbabwe's Houses of Parliament

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP or Commission) warmly welcomes the passage of the bill that abolishes the death penalty by Zimbabwe's National Assembly and Senate. The bill, which was voted by both Houses of Parliament with broad support, represents an important step for the country to abolish the death penalty, which will come into effect once it is signed into law by President Emmerson Mnangagwa. Reports suggest that the Senate voted, on the night of 11 December, the abolition bill after it was voted in the National Assembly, and this vote coincided closely with International Human Rights Day, which was observed on 10 December.

Zimbabwe has not carried out an execution since 2005, although reports suggest that there are at least 60 people under sentence of death as courts have continued to impose death sentences. President Mnangagwa, who has publicly expressed his opposition to capital punishment, has reportedly used his powers to commute death sentences to life imprisonment.

"I join my fellow Commissioners in extending our heartfelt congratulations to members of both Houses of Parliament of Zimbabwe for this important step towards the abolition of the death penalty," said ICDP President Navi Pillay. She added, "ICDP recognizes and commends all the people including civil society organizations who have worked tirelessly to ensure the passage of the abolition bill which has brought Zimbabwe to the cusp of abolition of the death penalty. We now call on President Mnangagwa to sign the bill into law."

The vote by Zimbabwe's Houses of Parliament of the bill to end capital punishment highlights a growing trend of abolition across the African continent in the last five years, as witnessed by the adoption of abolition of the death penalty in countries including Zambia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic, and Chad.

Background

The International Commission against the Death Penalty is currently composed of 26 Commissioners who are former Presidents, Prime Ministers, Ministers, Members of Parliament, senior UN officials, international Judges, Lawyers, Academics. The Commission acts with total independence under the leadership of President Judge Navi Pillay, the former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The work of ICDP is supported by its Support Group of 24 Member States who are committed to the abolition of the death penalty. Both ICDP's Commissioners and Member States of its Support Group come from all regions of the world. ICDP's Secretariat is based in Madrid and is responsible for the day-to-day work of the Commission.

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.



North-South Prize
of the Council of Europe

SARIA PREMIO

René Cassin