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against the Death Penalty**

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(1934-2024)

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**Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: ICDP warmly welcomes Ms Isabelle Lonvis-Rome as a new Commissioner**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP or Commission) is delighted to announce the appointment of Ms Isabelle Lonvis-Rome as its new Commissioner.

Ms Lonvis-Rome's distinguished career spans nearly four decades in the judiciary, government, and international diplomacy. A graduate of France's prestigious École Nationale de la Magistrature, she entered the judiciary at the age of twenty-three — the youngest magistrate in France at the time. She served as a sentence enforcement judge, investigating magistrate, liberty and custody judge, and presided over the assize courts of Nanterre, Versailles, Pontoise, and Chartres. Her judicial career was marked above all by an unwavering commitment to the rights of victims and the most vulnerable: she was instrumental in establishing one of France's first domestic violence units within the Court of Appeal of Versailles, and as a technical adviser to the Minister of Justice she helped create access-to-justice points in prisons and launch a dedicated telephone assistance platform for victims. Her prolific scholarly output — encompassing multiple books on the judicial profession, incarceration, domestic violence, and the rights of women — has further cemented her standing as one of France's foremost legal voices on human rights.

From May 2022 to July 2023, Ms Lonvis-Rome served as France's Minister Delegate for Gender Equality, Diversity, and Equal Opportunities. During her tenure, she spearheaded three landmark interministerial plans — against racism, antisemitism, and discrimination; for gender equality; and against anti-LGBT+ hate — and led France's delegation for the presentation of its Universal Periodic Review before the United Nations in Geneva. She also presided over the the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council at the European Union for the adoption of the Women on Boards Directive, and represented France at the G7 Gender Equality summits in Berlin and Nikko.

Ms Lonvis-Rome was appointed as France's Ambassador for Human Rights and for the International Memory of the Holocaust in May 2024. She has led France's delegations before the United Nations Human Rights Committee and the Committee Against Torture, and has spoken publicly and directly on the imperative of abolition of the death penalty — stating that states which have not carried out executions for years must be encouraged to convert their de facto moratoriums into legal abolition, and that for those which continue to execute, the immediate priority must be to secure a moratorium.

"I join my fellow ICDP Commissioners in welcoming Isabelle Lonvis-Rome to the Commission," said ICDP President Navi Pillay. "She brings a wealth of experience: she has spent nearly four decades furthering the respect, protection, fulfilment of human dignity — from the criminal courts of France to the highest levels of government and international diplomacy and as a scholar — and she now brings that experience to bear at a time of critical importance for the death penalty abolitionist movement. For ICDP, she will carry the baton of the enduring legacy of Robert Badinter, who led the abolition of the death penalty in France and who was an influential founding ICDP Commissioner. I have no doubt that Ambassador Lonvis-Rome's voice, shaped by her experience and rights-based conviction, will prove invaluable to our efforts in our fight for the universal abolition of the death penalty."



North-South Prize  
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**Background**

The activities of ICDP which was established in 2010, are led by 28 high-level Commissioners from all regions of the world, under the presidency of Judge Navi Pillay, former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Commissioners include four former Presidents, six former Prime Ministers, eleven Ministers, two U.S. Governors, ten Parliamentarians, six Judges, and eight senior UN officials — including three former UN High Commissioners for Human Rights. 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.

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.



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