



ICDP Statement California. On 6 November 2012, voters in California will have the opportunity join to the majority of the world's countries by rejecting the death penalty.

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) is an independent body working for a world free from capital punishment – a practice that is cruel and wrong; harms society and endorses violence; and fails to deter violent crime but risks execution of the innocent.

Meeting in Madrid, Spain on 9 October 2012, the Commissioners:

- **Applauded** the United States of America for recent abolition of the death penalty in Connecticut, Illinois, New Jersey, New Mexico and New York, and the moratorium on executions in Oregon.
- **Welcomed** the USA's steady progress towards ending executions. US states imposed fewer death sentences in 2011 than in any year in modern history; public support for capital punishment has dwindled to its lowest levels for nearly four decades; and the USA appears to be moving away from a small group of isolated countries (including China, Iraq, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Somalia and Yemen) that execute the most people.
- **Recalled** that since the early 1970s more than 140 US death row inmates have been exonerated because they were sentenced for crimes they did not commit.
- **Applauded** the inspiring efforts of those leading the call to repeal the death penalty in California and to use savings to improve public safety and provide better support to families of homicide victims, while protecting the innocent from wrongful conviction and wrongful execution.
- **Called** on the citizens of California on November 6 to send a message that State killing has no place in a modern justice system, and to join other democracies by voting for a future free from executions.

Federico Mayor, President of ICDP

Robert Badinter (France). Former Minister of Justice of France

Mohammed Bedjaoui (Algeria). Former Foreign Minister of Algeria, Former Judge in the International Court of Justice

Ruth Dreifuss (Switzerland). Former President and Minister of Home Affairs of the Swiss Confederation

Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis (Haiti). Former Prime Minister of Haiti

Ioanna Kuçuradi (Turkey). UNESCO Chairperson of the Philosophy and Human Rights Department and Director of the Center of Research and Implementation of Human Rights in Maltepe University (Turkey)

Rodolfo Mattarollo (Argentina). Former Deputy Secretary for Human Rights in Argentina

Ibrahim Najjar (Lebanon). Former Minister of Justice

Bill Richardson (USA). Former Governor of New Mexico