26 MONTHS
7 October 2010 – 31 December 2012

15 VISITS
France, Gambia, Italy, Japan, Morocco (twice), Rwanda, Spain (three times), Switzerland, Tajikistan, Tunisia, USA (California and New York)

14 MEMBERS
Mr Giuliano Amato, Ms Louise Arbour, Mr Robert Badinter, Mr Mohammed Bedjaoui, Ms Ruth Dreifuss, Ms Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis, Ms Amina Jilani, Ms Joanita Koçakadi, Ms Gracia Macapagal Arroyo, Mr Rodolfo Mattarollo, Mr Ibrahim Najar, Mr Bill Richardson, Mr José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero

2 ABOLISHES
Gabon (2010) and Latvia (2012)
Countries and the amount of executions that were carried out in 2012. Source: Amnesty International report “Death Sentences and Executions 2012.”

**2012**

- Afghanistan: 14
- Bangladesh: 1
- Belarus: 3+
- China (Mainland): 6
- China (Hong Kong): 1
- China (Macau): 1
- Iran: 314+
- Iraq: 129+
- Japan (Honshu): 7
- South Korea: 6+
- Pakistan: 1
- Palestinian Authority (West Bank and Gaza): 6
- Saudi Arabia: 79+
- Somalia: 28+
- Thailand: 6
- United Arab Emirates: 1
- United States: 43
- Yemen: 28

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**About ICDP**

Key facts, Who we are, What we do, How ICDP works, The context in which we work

**Global concern for abolition**

Summary of positive developments in 2012

**Notable setbacks in 2012**

What we have accomplished since we were established: our activities and achievements 2010-2012

**Our Commissioners**

Commission members and ICDP Secretariat, Summary Audit Report
This report describes the International Commission against the Death Penalty, its role, its activities, its achievements and the context in which it has been working since its creation on 7 October 2010 until 31 December 2012.

Message from the President

ICDP is an independent body composed of 14 personalities of international prestige and experience in human rights, and supported by a diverse group of 16 countries from all world regions. ICDP opposes capital punishment in all situations, and urges the immediate establishment of a universal moratorium on executions as a step towards total abolition of the death penalty.

Since its creation, ICDP has undertaken a number of activities to support the abolition of capital punishment – including missions to Japan, Tajikistan, Tunisia and the USA. A number of meetings have also been organized, such as a roundtable of experts to review challenges to abolition, and a conference on the Greater Caribbean. Numerous letters and statements have been issued, in particular about individuals at imminent risk of execution. Working relationships have been established with the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, the Council of Europe, the European Union, the UN, the UK All Party Parliamentary Group on the Abolition of the Death Penalty as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and academics working on the abolition of the death penalty.

In the coming years, ICDP will build on these experiences and expertise. It will focus attention on abolition of the death penalty in Africa, Asia, the Greater Caribbean, the Middle East and the USA. It will continue to strengthen its work so that its activities influence and contribute to the global movement that is working for the eventual abolition of capital punishment.

Once seen solely as a matter of criminal justice, states’ use of the death penalty is now an international concern and part of the mainstream human rights agenda. ICDP’s work should be seen as a contribution by influential and respected voices of international standing towards creating a death penalty free world.

Federico Mayor
President, International Commission against the Death Penalty

The death penalty does not make the world a safer place. There exists no conclusive evidence that it deters crime more effectively than other punishments.

The most worrying fact about the death penalty, however, is the possibility of executing an innocent person.

No matter how developed a justice system might be, it will always remain susceptible to human failure and, therefore, it runs the risk of committing irrevocable and irreparable damage.

Federico Mayor
President, International Commission against the Death Penalty

The global trend towards abolition of the death penalty has gathered pace dramatically in recent years. Nearly 50 years ago only 16 countries had abolished the death penalty for all crimes. Today, according to the United Nations (UN), some 190 countries have rejected the death penalty or do not carry out executions. As recently as December 2012, the UN General Assembly called for a moratorium on executions with the aim of abolishing the death penalty. The call for repeal of capital punishment is no longer the prerogative of a few countries – there is now an international movement working for its global abolition.

Abolition of the death penalty is supported by states from all regions in the world regardless of political system, religion, culture or tradition. These nations have accepted that state killing is wrong and fails to deter crime. They recognize that modern justice systems must protect the public from crime but without the inherent risks of executing the innocent, and the cruelty of executions.

But we must not forget that billions still live in countries which retain capital punishment and thousands of prisoners continue to be executed every year or remain under sentence of death. It is against this background that the International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) was launched in Madrid in October 2010.

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“"The death penalty does not make the world a safer place. There exists no conclusive evidence that it deters crime more effectively than other punishments. The most worrying fact about the death penalty, however, is the possibility of executing an innocent person.

No matter how developed a justice system might be, it will always remain susceptible to human failure and, therefore, it runs the risk of committing irrevocable and irreparable damage."
The death penalty violates the right to life – the most basic of all human rights – and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. It is frequently cruel, inhuman or degrading right not to be subjected to capital punishment. It is politically independent of governments, allowing it to engage with a number of countries around the world about their use of capital punishment. It is chaired by a President and meets twice a year to discuss strategies and plan its work, including country visits. It is supported and funded by a geographically diverse group of 16 countries from all world regions that are committed to the abolition of the death penalty. This Support Group is composed of Algeria, Argentina, Dominican Republic, France, Italy, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Mongolia, Norway, the Philippines, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and Tunisia.

The Support Group carries out its activities under the coordination of a rotating yearly presidency. The Support Group organizes the work of ICDP.

**About ICDP**

**Key facts about ICDP**

- It was founded in October 2010 in Madrid to promote and support abolition of the death penalty. It was established as a result of an initiative of the government of Spain to campaign against the death penalty throughout the world.
- It works to achieve abolition of the death penalty and complements actions of the UN and other international and regional organizations, governments, civil society and NGOs that are working towards abolition of the death penalty.
- It is politically independent of governments, allowing it to engage with a number of countries around the world about their use of capital punishment.
- It is chaired by a President and meets twice a year to discuss strategies and plan its work, including country visits.
- It is supported and funded by a geographically diverse group of 16 countries from all world regions that are committed to the abolition of the death penalty. This Support Group is composed of Algeria, Argentina, Dominican Republic, France, Italy, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Mongolia, Norway, the Philippines, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and Tunisia.
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**Who we are**

ICDP is an independent body composed of 14 high profile Commissioners working for the total abolition of the death penalty. The ICDP, an initiative of the government of Spain, is led by its President, Federico Mayor. These eminent individuals include former presidents, prime ministers, government ministers, senior United Nations (UN) officials, a former US state governor, a former judge and president of the International Court of Justice, a senior judge and a leading academic. It is supported by a diverse group of 16 states.

These Commissioners represent all world regions - demonstrating that abolition of the death penalty is a global concern and not the cause of a particular region. They do not represent their country and act with independence in their decision making. ICDP’s added value lies in the importance of its members. Each Commissioner has expertise in international law and human rights and is committed to the global abolition of capital punishment. Their experience and knowledge enable them to address politically sensitive issues and engage with senior officials from countries where the death penalty is still used. Their knowledge, influence and broad geographical representation provide ICDP with a high profile in the international arena.

**What we do**

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ICDP’s mandate is to promote, complement and support global abolition of the death penalty. Its main objectives are to:

- Promote abolition in laws in countries which apply a moratorium on use of the death penalty.
- Promote the establishment of a moratorium on the death penalty in all world regions, as a step towards total abolition.
- Intervene in specific cases – in particular where imposition of capital punishment is prohibited under international law, such as in the case of juvenile offenders, pregnant women, the mentally ill, or where international death penalty safeguards are violated.

**How ICDP works**

- Intervenes with high representatives and personalities in specific countries.
- Complements actions calling for repeal of capital punishment along with representatives of intergovernmental organizations and NGOs.
- Underst take visits to countries to engage with high-ranking officials.
- Issues appeals and statements – in particular where individuals are at imminent risk of execution.
- Organizes public events including discussion panels, conferences, seminars and campaigns to mobilize public opinion for abolition of the death penalty.

**The context in which we work**

For many years, progress towards abolition of capital punishment was slow and the cause had few champions. When the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted in 1948 very few states had abolished the death penalty. In 1988 abolition of the death penalty was the concern of a small minority of states. Fifty years later the situation is very different. According to the UN some 140 out of the 193 Member States of the UN have abolished the death penalty in law or do not execute. Opposition to the death penalty is not exclusive to any particular region, political system, religion, culture or tradition.

As of December 2012, 105 states had abolished the death penalty in law. 97 for all crimes in civil and military law, and eight for ordinary crimes, making it possible to sentence a person to death, for example, under military law.

Among the states that still retain the death penalty in law, 41 have not executed anyone in the past 10 years or have announced a moratorium.

As of 11 December 2012, 75 states have ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at abolition of the death penalty. Under the UN Universal Periodic Review Process a number of states indicated that they were considering ratifying this Protocol.

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Launch of ICDP
OCTOBER 2010

Led by its President Frederico Mayor, ICDP works to abolish the death penalty worldwide.

First International Conference on the Death Penalty in the Greater Caribbean
OCTOBER 2011

Meeting co-organized by ICDP to develop strategies to support abolition of the death penalty in the Greater Caribbean region.

Roundtable on the Death Penalty
OCTOBER 2012

A review held to identify developments on capital punishment and legal and political challenges and opportunities for the coming five years.

FACTS

The last judicial executions in Spain took place in September 1975. Three years later the death penalty was banned, however with a get-out clause for the military. The total abolition under all circumstances took place in 1995.
2012 was the second lowest since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976, representing a nearly 75% decline since 1996 when there were 315 sentences.

Africa
Largely free of executions, with only five countries (Botswana, The Gambia, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan) reported to have carried out executions in 2012. The African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, established by the African Charter, is also considering a binding protocol aimed at abolishing the death penalty.

The Americas
Almost free of executions, with only the USA continuing to execute on a regular basis. But even in the USA the trend is towards fewer executions, with an increasing number of states repealing death penalty laws. The Caribbean region remained free of executions and the number of death sentences imposed has declined since the abolition of the death penalty in large parts of the region.

The Americas
Benin and Mongolia: They ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty; they are taking steps to repeal capital punishment in their national laws.

The Americas
America: The state of Connecticut abolished the death penalty.

European countries, with the exception of Belarus, have abolished the death penalty; this has been reinforced by its inclusion in European treaties. Neither the 2004 Madrid bombing, nor the 2005 London attacks, nor Anders Breivik’s 2011 mass killings in Oslo and Utoya in Norway have led to the reintroduction of capital punishment.

Europe
Almost free of executions – only the USA continues to execute on a regular basis but even in the USA the trend is towards fewer executions, with an increasing number of states repealing death penalty laws.

Middle East
The Arab Spring awakened hopes for greater respect for human rights including positive action against the death penalty. While a number of states have not carried out executions there is little progress towards legal abolition of the death penalty. According to Amnesty International there has been a gradual decline in death sentences in some countries but an increase in executions in Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

Middle East
Capital punishment is allowed in several states although the use of the death penalty is the subject of debate in a number of countries. The death penalty is used in violation of international standards and capital crimes often fail to meet the threshold of ‘most serious crimes’. Moreover, many countries fail to release information.

Asia
Capital punishment is still used in several states although the use of the death penalty is the subject of debate in a number of countries. The death penalty is used in violation of international standards and capital crimes often fail to meet the threshold of ‘most serious crimes’. Moreover, many countries fail to release information.

Positive developments in 2012
The state of Connecticut abolished the death penalty. The USA continues to execute on a regular basis but even in the USA the trend is towards fewer executions, with an increasing number of states repealing death penalty laws. The Caribbean region remained free of executions and the number of death sentences imposed has declined since the abolition of the death penalty in large parts of the region.

Benin and Mongolia: They ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty; they are taking steps to repeal capital punishment in their national laws.

United Nations
There was an increase in support for the UN General Assembly resolution calling for a moratorium on executions adopted in December 2012. 111 states voted in favour, 41 against and 34 abstained. Tunisia voted in favour and Toloneia abstained.

Death sentences in the USA continue to decline
2012 was the second lowest since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976, representing a nearly 75% decline since 1996 when there were 315 sentences.

Global concern for abolition

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International Commission against the Death Penalty

Review 2010 – 2012
Notable setbacks in 2012

Nevertheless, despite progress towards abolition, some 20 countries between 2010 and 2012 regularly carried out executions. Most executions took place in China, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the USA and Yemen. Furthermore, thousands of prisoners remain under sentence of death in retentionist countries around the world.

Since 2007 the UN General Assembly has called on states which retain capital punishment to establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty. A moratorium on executions by UN Member States is a step in the right direction - but it is not a substitute for legal abolition of the death penalty. This was tragically illustrated in The Gambia when - despite a 27-year de facto moratorium on executions - nine prisoners were executed by firing squad in August 2012. In countries which retain capital punishment, there is often a lack of official public information about its application, in particular the number of death sentences, the crimes for which people have been sentenced to death and the number of executions carried out. This lack of transparency impedes a full debate on the death penalty. It is important that the public is given full information, including statistics, so that an informed debate on capital punishment can be held.

• **Afghanistan** executed 14 prisoners.
• **Belarus** executed at least 3 persons.
• **China** is believed to be executing more people than the total of all other states carrying out the death penalty. As of December 2012, China had not published official figures on the number of executions that it carries out every year. However, since 2007, because of legal reforms and the introduction of safeguards, it is believed that the number of executions may have fallen to about 2,000 a year.
• **India** Mohammed Ajmal Amir Kasab was hanged in November 2012 for his role in the Mumbai attack in 2008. This was India’s first execution since 2004.
• **Iran** there were at least 314 executions. Most of those executed were sentenced on drug-related crimes.
• **Iraq** carried out at least 129 executions following trials which fail to comply with basic fair trial standards.
• **Japan** hanged seven prisoners after a period of 26 months without executions.
• **Pakistan** hanged a soldier in November 2012. This was the first execution since 2008.
• **Saudi Arabia** carried out at least 79 public executions.
• **USA** despite a steady decline in the use of the death penalty, 77 people were sentenced to death in 2012. According to the Washington-based Death Penalty Information Center this figure is the second lowest total since capital punishment was reinstated in 1976. The number of executions in 2012 was 43, the same as in 2011. Seventy-five per cent of executions took place in the US states of Arizona, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas. On 6 November 2012, Californian voters decided by a narrow margin against Proposition 34 and retained the death penalty. The USA states of Connecticut, Illinois, New Jersey, New Mexico and New York have all abolished the death penalty in the last 10 years. Other states such as Colorado, Maryland and New Hampshire appear to be moving closer to abolition.
• **Yemen** carried out at least 28 executions and two of those executed are believed to have been juvenile offenders. According to Human Rights Watch, 22 individuals are under sentence of death despite evidence that they were under 18 years of age at the time of the alleged crimes.

In the USA, as well as in other countries, the death penalty is often imposed on the most marginalized members of society. Individuals coming from the poorer sectors of society are at far greater risk of being sentenced to death than a wealthy individual who committed a similar crime, and because they are poor they often fail to get good legal representation at their trial.
Commissioner Ruth Dreifuss visited Tajikistan in May 2011 and met with senior government officials and participated in the “International Conference on Central Asia without Death Penalty.”

FACTS
There has been an official moratorium on executions since 2004 and the government has supported resolutions at the UN General Assembly for a moratorium on the death penalty. The government has taken steps to reduce the number of capital offences and in 2010 the President established a Working Group to consider repeal of the death penalty.
What we accomplished

What we have accomplished since we were established: our activities and achievements 2010–2012.

“Experience has shown that as a new generation grows up with no expectation that criminals will be punished by death, the majority come to reject it as a ‘barbarity of the past’. It is important also to go further than the repetition of the mantra that ‘capital punishment is not a deterrent’ by confronting sceptics with the fact that even if it were shown that it could have a marginal deterrent effect, this could only be achieved by high rates of execution, mandatorily and speedily enforced. This would increase the probability of innocent or wrongfully convicted persons being executed.”

Roger Hood
Professor Emeritus of Criminology,
University of Oxford

On 7 October 2010, ICDP was established in Madrid. The newly appointed members of the Commission met with representatives of civil society to discuss their objectives and strategies to promote global abolition of the death penalty. The meeting was led by ICDP President Federico Mayor, former Director-General of UNESCO.

Ruth Dreifuss, former President of Switzerland and Member of ICDP, and ICDP’s President Federico Mayor gave a keynote speech at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, highlighting the risk of executing the innocent and the lack of conclusive evidence that the death penalty deters serious crime. He applauded international progress but stressed the need to intensify efforts to achieve global abolition of the death penalty.

The African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights. ICDP Secretary-General Asunta Vivó met with Zainabou Sylvie Kayitesi, Chairperson of the Working Group on the Death Penalty and member of the African Commission, to discuss future cooperation on the abolition of capital punishment in Africa.

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Council of Europe
APRIL 2011, FRANCE

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UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
MARCH 2011, SWITZERLAND

The African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights. ICDP Secretary-General Asunta Vivó met with Zainabou Sylvie Kayitesi, Chairperson of the Working Group on the Death Penalty and member of the African Commission, to discuss future cooperation on the abolition of capital punishment in Africa.

ICDP President Federico Mayor met with government authorities in Rabat and addressed the opening ceremony of the General Assembly of the World Coalition against the Death Penalty.

Morocco
JUNE 2011, MOROCCO

Launch of ICDP
OCTOBER 2010, SPAIN

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
MARCH 2011, SWITZERLAND

Morocco
JUNE 2011, MOROCCO

Mission to Tajikistan
MAY 2011, TAJIKISTAN

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International Commission against the Death Penalty

First International Conference on the Death Penalty in the Greater Caribbean
OCTOBER 2011, SPAIN

The First International Conference on the Death Penalty in the Greater Caribbean took place in Madrid, Spain, to develop strategies to support abolition of the death penalty in the Greater Caribbean region. ICDP President Federico Mayor and ICDP Commissioner Rodolfo Mattarollo gave keynote speeches. The conference was co-organized by ICDP and attended by human rights activists, NGOs, academics and organizations, and individuals representing the Caribbean’s cultural diversity.

African Conference against the Death Penalty
OCTOBER 2011, RWANDA

At the African Conference against the Death Penalty, Rwanda’s capital city Kigali hosted the Regional Conference on the Abolition and/ or Moratorium on the Execution of the Death Penalty, former Prime Minister of Haiti and member of the Commission Michèle Duvivier, who would have replaced capital punishment with life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. During the conference, ICDP’s delegation led by Secretary-General Asunta Vivó met senior state officials and lawyers involved in capital cases, spoke in two public events, and visited the Quvucu State Prison where the delegation discussed criminal justice issues with staff members and prisoners.

Country Mission to Japan
MAY-JUNE 2012, JAPAN

ICDP visited Japan from 30 May to 2 June 2012 for meetings. The delegation, led by ICDP Commissioner Bill Richardson, former Governor of New Mexico, USA, met with diplomats, the Delegation of the European Union, the Japanese Federation of Bar Associations, the Center for Prisoners’ Rights, and parliamentarians. These meetings provided an opportunity to learn more about Japan’s system of criminal justice and to discuss the death penalty and the global trend towards its abolition. Governor Richardson also spoke at the symposium on “What Makes Criminal Justice Sustainable?” organized by the Norwegian Embassy and Aoyama Gakuin University, Tokyo, which was attended by former Ministers of Justice and Japan.

Roundtable on the Death Penalty
OCTOBER 2012, SPAIN

On 8 October, ICDP organized a roundtable in Madrid to review developments on capital punishment and identify legal and political challenges and opportunities for the coming five years. Discussion covered specific countries, regional and thematic issues as well as the complementary roles of intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and governments to further the cause of abolition. The meeting was attended by over 40 individuals including academics and lawyers and representatives from intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and governments. On 9 October, ICDP organized a public debate which included the participation of ICDP’s commissioners, academics and representatives of civil society.

UN – Panel on the death penalty
JULY 2012, NEW YORK

Panel on the death penalty. ICDP President Federico Mayor participated in a panel on “Moving away from the death penalty. Lessons from national experience.” The meeting, organized by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, was an opportunity to inform Member States about the death penalty before the UN General Assembly’s debate on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty that year.

Regional Conference about the Death Penalty
OCTOBER 2012, MOROCCO

To mark both International Human Rights Day and the 30th Anniversary of the Human Rights Centre at the University of Padua, the University organized an event entitled “Time to Abolish the Death Penalty.” President Federico Mayor, ICDP Commissioner Ruth Dreifuss and Giuliano Amato and Secretary-General Asunta Vivó participated. President Mayer and Commissioner Dreifuss delivered presentations on ICDP’s work and spoke about the global trend towards abolition.

ICDP brings something new to the campaign to abolish this abhorrent practice – the voice of politically influential individuals with international standing from all world regions.

The death penalty is the ultimate denial of human rights - it is cruel, morally wrong and damages society.

University of Padua
DECEMBER 2012, ITALY

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University of Padua
DECEMBER 2012, ITALY

ICDP visits the USA state of California to support those campaigning for Proposition 34, an initiative that would have replaced capital punishment with life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. During the visit, ICDP’s delegation led by Secretary-General Asunta Vivó met senior state officials and lawyers involved in capital cases, spoke in two public events, and visited a prison where the delegation discussed criminal justice issues with staff members and prisoners.

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International Conference on the Death Penalty
MAY-JUNE 2012, TUNISIA

ICDP Commissioners Robert Badinter and Ruth Dreifuss met with government representatives, the President of the Republic Mohammed Marzouki and the President of the Constituent Assembly Mustapha Ben Jaafar to discuss legal abolition of capital punishment and Tunisia’s support for the 2002 UN General Assembly resolution calling for a moratorium on executions. Commissioner Ruth Dreifuss gave a keynote speech on international trends on abolition of the death penalty and ICDP’s work at an International Conference on the Death Penalty, organized by the Tunisian Coalition against the Death Penalty and the France-based NGO Ensemble contre la peine de mort (ECPM).

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Regional Conference about the Death Penalty
OCTOBER 2012, MOROCCO

To mark both International Human Rights Day and the 30th Anniversary of the Human Rights Centre at the University of Padua, the University organized an event entitled “Time to Abolish the Death Penalty.” President Federico Mayor, ICDP Commissioner Ruth Dreifuss and Giuliano Amato and Secretary-General Asunta Vivó participated. President Mayer and Commissioner Dreifuss delivered presentations on ICDP’s work and spoke about the global trend towards abolition.

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University of Padua
DECEMBER 2012, ITALY

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ICDP visited the state of California to support campaigning for Proposition 34, an initiative that would have replaced capital punishment with life imprisonment without parole. ICDP spoke at two public events and visited San Quentin State Prison.

FACTS:
California hosts the largest death row in the USA with more than 720 condemned prisoners. Since restoring the death penalty in 1978, California has executed 13 prisoners but executions were halted in 2006. Repeal of the death penalty in California will provide important leadership not only to other US states but also internationally to countries moving towards abolition.
Our Commissioners

ICDP Commission members 2010-2012.
The personal involvement of ICDP members with abolition of the death penalty means that the Commission is well placed to engage with senior officials from countries that have yet to abolish capital punishment. Their knowledge and experience ensure that ICDP has important global credibility.

Mr Federico Mayor

Mr Federico Mayor, ICDP President, was born in Barcelona, Spain. He holds a doctorate in Pharmacy from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. Among his various political roles, Professor Mayor has been Undersecretary of Education and Science for the Spanish Government (1974 – 1975), Member of the Spanish Parliament (1977 – 1978), Advisor to the Prime Minister (1977 – 1978), Minister of Education and Science (1980-1982) and Member of the European Parliament (1987-1994). In 1994, he was elected Director-General of UNESCO. He has published numerous scientific publications and is the author of four books of poetry and several books of essays.

"I am convinced that abolishing the death penalty worldwide is a goal that many would like to achieve. But the task is very demanding. It requires continuous attention, convincing arguments and continued pressure on the states that still practice the death penalty. It is a mission that requires time, energy and resources. No mission can be fulfilled without missionaries and ICDP gathers the missionaries, organizes their activities, builds constituencies, raises awareness on the relevant facts and interacts with those who have to be convinced. The role it plays is essential."

Ms Louise Arbour

Ms Louise Arbour, a Canadian jurist, is former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, former justice of the Supreme Court of Canada and the Court of Appeal for Ontario, and former Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. Since 2009, she has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of the International Crisis Group. Ms Arbour has received, from some 30 universities, many honorary doctorates, and numerous medals and awards.

"ICDP was only founded in 2010 but in just two years it has become a major actor in the global cause to abolish the death penalty. In the last three years, ICDP has undertaken several country missions to encourage efforts to abolish capital punishment. The organization also worked to support the UN General Assembly’s resolution calling for a moratorium on executions. Be that regard it was encouraging that in 2012 Peru, Bolivia and Tunisia supported the resolution for the first time and Indonesia, which had previously voted no, abstained in the vote. The abolitionist momentum has been on a slow but sturdy path and ICDP serves a critical role in pursuit of universal rejection of the death penalty."

Mr Robert Badinter

Mr Robert Badinter, a high profile French criminologist, university professor and politician. He is particularly known for his struggle against capital punishment, for which he was awarded the Medal of Cesare Beccaria in November 2011. As a member of France’s Socialist Party, he served as Minister of Justice and then President of the Constitutional Council under François Mitterrand. President Mitterrand’s call for abolition during the election campaign was controversial as public opinion largely favoured capital punishment. Robert Badinter, as Minister of Justice, introduced legislation to abolish capital punishment in 1981 and on 17 September 1981, the day before the death penalty was abolished, he said:

"Tomorrow, thanks to you, French justice will not be a justice that kills any more."

Mr Mohammed Bedjaoui

Mr Mohammed Bedjaoui is an Algerian jurist and diplomat. He served as Algeria’s ambassador to France and the UN, as judge on the International Court of Justice and as President of the Constitutional Council, Algeria’s highest judicial authority. He was foreign minister of Algeria from 2005 to 2007. He is the author of several books and has been awarded a number of honorary doctorates and prizes in recognition of his work.

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Ms Asma Jahangir

Ms Asma Jahangir is a Pakistani lawyer, advocate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, President of the Supreme Court Bar Association and human rights activist. She works in Pakistan and internationally to prevent the persecution of religious minorities and women and the exploitation of children. She was UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religious belief from August 2004 to July 2010. Previously, she served as UN Special Rapporteur onextrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions in 1993-94. She is member of a number of associations and has published numerous scientific articles.

“I need presidents and prime ministers to show political leadership in the cause to end capital punishment. Government intervention is critical in the campaign to abolish the death penalty.”

Mr Bill Richardson

Mr Bill Richardson was in 1997 US Ambassador to the UN, and in 1998 he was unanimously confirmed as the US Senate as Secretary of the US Department of Energy. While a Congressman, he served as a special envoy on many sensitive, international missions. He successfully secured the release of hostages, American service personnel and prisoners in Cuba, Iraq, North Korea, and Sudan. Bill Richardson has been nominated several times for the Nobel Peace Prize. He was first elected Governor of New Mexico in 2002 and re-elected in 2006 with the support of 69 per cent of voters, representing the largest margin of victory for any governor in state history. On 18 March 2009, Governor Richardson signed an abolitionist MFN law, turning New Mexico into the fifteenth US state to abolish the death penalty. In a statement released that day Bill Richardson said:

“In a society which values individual life and liberty above all else, where justice and non - vengefulness is the singular guiding principle of our system of criminal law, the potential of wrongful conviction and, God forbid, execution of an innocent person stands as anathema to our very sensibilities as human beings.”

“When elected as Governor of New Mexico I was committed to the death penalty. I believed the death penalty to be a just punishment for murder. I also believed that it was necessary to deter others from committing such serious crimes. But my conscience was challenged by miscarriages of justice and the very real risk that an innocent person would be executed. In my view, to retain the death penalty with the inherent risk that a serious miscarriage of justice might take place is wrong. That an innocent person is executed is simply unacceptable.”

“ICDP plays an important role in raising awareness about the death penalty internationally.”

Mr José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero

Mr José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero began his political career in 1986 following his election as MP for León and then as MP for Madrid. As an MP he served on a number of committees in the Spanish Congress including Justice and Home Affairs. From 2004 until 2011, he was Prime Minister of Spain. In 2010 he was the driving force behind the Spanish government initiative to create ICDP.

“My desire has always been to mobilize more action, more voices, and more arguments in favour of abolition with individuals as a trial record to supporting human rights. Believe that the constant aspiration of human kind has been to reject violence and minimize the use of force. Life is a universal norm - the death penalty is a contradiction to respect for life. Believe therefore, fully, in this work, it is one of the most fair and decent concerns that we can address.”

Mr Ibrahim Najar

Mr Ibrahim Najar is a lawyer and former Lebanese politician and government minister. He is a teacher of law and the author of numerous legal books and articles and the owner and editor of the Lebanese Reviews of Arab and International Arbitration and publishes the Saint Joseph Faculty of Law Journal. He is a member of the Council of the Presidency of the Permanent Assembly of the Centre for Research and Application of Human Rights.

“We need to persuade other Arab countries to follow the example of the Philippines. There is fertile ground among the Arab countries that supported or abstained in the UN General Assembly vote, calling for a global moratorium on the death penalty. I am confident that our past efforts will bear more fruit in the future. I hope that, in our generation, we will see a world free from capital punishment.”

Mr Rodolfo Mattarollo

Mr Rodolfo Mattarollo is an Argentine lawyer and has held senior posts in government and academia, including Chief of Staff of the Ministry of Human Rights. Ambassador Mattarollo is currently Special Representative of the Technical Secretariat of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR/Haiti). In his academic career he lectured in international law at the University of Lomas de Zamora and at the Institute for Latin American Integration of the University of La Plata, Argentina. Ambassador Mattarollo is a member of the Council of the Presidency of the American Association of the Haitian diaspora and honorary member of the Institute of Judicial Studies of El Salvador. He is also a member of the Council of the Presidency of the Permanent Assembly of Human Rights.
ICDP Secretariat
The Secretariat of ICDP is based in Geneva, Switzerland. There are three members of staff who are responsible for organizing the work of ICDP:
• Asunta Vivó Cavaller is the Secretary-General;
• Martin Macpherson is the Advisor; and
• Enira Kucuqi is the Administrator/Coordinator of the ICDP.

Audit statement for 2012 accounts
Auditor’s Report to the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), Bern, and to the Secretariat of the International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) c/o the Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, Geneva.

Responsibility for the financial report lies with ICDP, with our task being to audit it and to express an opinion thereon.
We have carried out this audit in accordance with Swiss Auditing Standards, which require audits to be planned and conducted in such a way as to provide reasonable assurance that statements are free from material error. We have audited items in the financial report through statistical sampling and analysis. We have also assessed how significant, evaluation-related decisions have been applied, and how the format of the financial report looks overall. Our view is that this audit constitutes a sufficient basis on which to form our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial report contains details of assets acquired and liabilities assumed during the period 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2012. The financial report gives a true picture of assets acquired and liabilities assumed by ICDP during the period 1 January 2012 to 31 December 2012, complying with the contract signed between FDFA and ICDP on 19 June 2012.

Geneva, 9 April 2013
(Translated from French original)
BDO SA
Nadia Quévit
Certified expert auditor
Roland Loup
Certified expert auditor