



International Commission
against the Death Penalty

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Federico Mayor

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Giuliano Amato

Louise Arbour

Robert Badinter

Mohammed Bedjaoui

Ruth Dreifuss

Michèle Duvivier
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Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: Bangladesh - 152 sentenced to death

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) condemns the death sentences handed down to 152 individuals following a mass trial in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 5 November 2013.

The mass trial involved 847 defendants who were members of the Bangladesh Rifles (now known as the Bangladesh Border Guards) for their alleged role in a mutiny on 25 and 26 February 2009. In addition to the 152 death sentences, 161 were sentenced to prison terms including life imprisonment.

“Those responsible for the 2009 mutiny must be brought to justice but without recourse to the death penalty,” said Federico Mayor, President of ICDP.

The 152 death sentences following this mass trial bring the number of prisoners on death row in Bangladesh to 1,102.

“The death penalty is a cruel and inhuman punishment. The Government of Bangladesh must implement an immediate moratorium on executions as a step towards abolition of capital punishment in line with UN General Assembly resolutions ‘Moratorium on the use of the death penalty adopted in 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012,’” said President Mayor.

Federico Mayor
President of the International Commission against
the Death Penalty



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Background

ICDP was founded in Madrid in October 2010. ICDP is composed of 15 personalities of high international standing from all regions of the world who act with total independence and neutrality and work under its President Mr. Federico Mayor.

ICDP opposes the death penalty under any circumstances believing that it violates the right to life enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. ICDP promotes the abolition of capital punishment in law in those states that observe a de facto moratorium on the use of the death penalty and promotes moratoriums on executions in states that rarely use the death penalty. In states that continue to carry out executions ICDP urges strict adherence to international standards.

ICDP works with the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, governments and nongovernmental organizations to further the abolition of capital punishment worldwide.

The work of the ICDP is supported by a diverse group of 17 states from all regions of the world that are committed to abolition of the death penalty. Its secretariat is based in Geneva.