Review 2013

12 MONTHS
(1st January - 31 December 2013)

14 VISITS, MEETINGS, EVENTS
Belarus, Belgium, Commonwealth Caribbean, Italy, Norway, Poland, Spain (thrice), Switzerland (thrice), Tajikistan and Thailand

15 MEMBERS
Mr Giuliano Amato, Ms Louise Arbour, Mr Robert Badinter, Mr Mohammed Bedjaoui, Ms Ruth Dreifuss, Ms Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis, Ms Hanne Sophie Greve, Ms Asma Jahangir, Ms Ioanna Kuçuradi, Ms Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Mr Rodolfo Mattarollo, Mr Federico Mayor, Mr Ibrahim Najjar, Mr Bill Richardson, Mr José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero

1 ABOLITION
Maryland (USA)
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Message from the President

Federico Mayor
President of the International Commission against the Death Penalty
Former Director General of the UNESCO and former Minister of Education and Science of Spain

When the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted in 1948 only eight States had abolished the death penalty. In recent years the situation has changed dramatically: according to the United Nations (UN) some 150 countries have either abolished the death penalty or no longer execute. This move towards abolition of the death penalty is witnessed in all regions in the world regardless of political system, religion, culture or tradition.

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) was created in 2010 to make a unique contribution to the global trend against the death penalty and to play a key role in the international movement working for its universal abolition. We have undertaken a number of activities in 2013 to reinforce and consolidate the global trend towards abolition of capital punishment. A full report on ICDP’s work can be found below but I will highlight some of our activities: at its April meeting in Oslo, ICDP released its report – ‘How States abolish the death penalty’ – that examined the experiences of 13 countries from all world regions in achieving abolition of the death penalty. There were missions of ICDP Commissioners to the Caribbean States of Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica and to Tajikistan to support efforts to abolish capital punishment. ICDP Commissioners also participated in high-level meetings on issues related to the death penalty organized by the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. ICDP Commissioners participated in the 5th World Congress against the Death Penalty, held in Madrid from 12-15 June 2013. On 10 October, ICDP and the Inter-Parliamentary Union commemorated the World Day against the Death Penalty by jointly organizing a panel discussion in Geneva – ‘Parliamentarians: a critical force in promoting the abolition of the death penalty.’ The meeting gathered parliamentarians from 14 countries, particularly from countries that still retain the death penalty but which may be considering abolition of the death penalty. This discussion provided parliamentarians with information on what is needed to end the practice of the death penalty.

There were a number of positive developments in 2013 which reinforced the global trend towards abolition of capital punishment. 22 countries reportedly carried out executions in 2013. No executions were recorded in Europe and in Central Asia.

In the USA, which is the only country that carried out executions in the Americas in 2013, public support for capital punishment has dwindled to its lowest levels for some 40 years. In May, Maryland became the eighteenth US state to abolish the death penalty in law. Other US states such as Colorado, Delaware, Oregon and New Hampshire are moving closer to abolition. Overall in the USA, the number of executions fell to 39 in 2013 down from 43 in 2012.

The continued increase in the number of State Parties to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Second Optional Protocol) is a welcome development. Ratifications by Latvia, Bolivia and Guinea-Bissau during 2013 brought the number of State Parties to the Second Optional Protocol to 78. The Second Optional Protocol is an important international treaty because it is a legally binding commitment by State Parties not to apply the death penalty or to reintroduce the punishment.

In Asia, where most of the executions take place, Mongolia, South Korea, Thailand, Brunei Darussalam, Laos, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and the Maldives have not carried out executions for several years. South Korea has maintained a de facto moratorium on capital punishment since December 1997 despite changes in administrations and concerns in the recent past that this could be breached. The new administration under President Park Geun-hye, who assumed office in February 2013, continued this de facto death penalty moratorium. In Pakistan, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif’s administration, which assumed office in June 2013, appears to continue a de facto moratorium on the death penalty that has been in place since 2008 allaying fear that the moratorium on executions might not continue. Except for the execution of a soldier, Muhammad Hussain, in November 2012 there have been no executions in Pakistan for more than five years.

In Africa, 49 member States of the African Union did not carry out judicial executions in 2013, 37 member States are abolitionist in law or practice. Despite these positive steps there is no room for complacency. Tens of thousands continue to languish under sentence of death in the minority of countries that still retain the death penalty and thousands were executed in 2013. Indonesia, Kuwait, Nigeria and Vietnam resumed executions in 2013. In November, 154 individuals were executed in 2013. In June, the US state of Texas reached the grim milestone of 500 executions since the death penalty was reinstated in the 1970s. Noting the situation of the death penalty as described above, ICDP believes that we must intensify our efforts to end capital punishment. In its work to abolish the death penalty, ICDP is able to bring its experience, eminent personalities and respected voices to the cause of abolishing the death penalty. Rejecting capital punishment is about choosing what kind of society we want to live in, and which values – including human rights and dignity, democracy and the rule of law – that we want to uphold.

ICDP firmly believes that State killing has no place in a modern and civilized society.

Federico Mayor
President of the International Commission against the Death Penalty
About ICDP

Who we are
ICDP was created on 7 October 2010 in Madrid as a Spanish initiative to make a unique contribution to the global trend against the death penalty and to play a key role in the international movement working for its universal abolition. ICDP is an independent body composed of 15 high-profile Commissioners working for the total abolition of the death penalty. 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. Our Commissioners represent all world regions - demonstrating that abolition of capital punishment is a global concern. They do not represent their country and they act with independence in decision-making. Each Commissioner has expertise in international law and human rights, and is committed to the global abolition of capital punishment. Their experience, knowledge and geographical representation - and their personal involvement with work to abolish the death penalty - enable them to engage effectively with senior officials from different countries, and provide ICDP with a high profile in the international arena.

What we do
ICDP opposes the death penalty in all situations, and urges the immediate establishment of a universal moratorium on executions with a view to total abolition. Our mandate is to promote, complement or support actions that aim at global abolition of the death penalty. ICDP's main objectives are to:
• Promote abolition of capital punishment in law in countries that apply a moratorium on use of the death penalty;
• Promote the establishment of a death penalty moratorium in all world regions, as a step towards total abolition;
• Intervene in specific cases - in particular, where capital punishment is prohibited under international law, 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;
• 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, side-events at international forums on issues related to abolition of the death penalty;
• Participates in conferences, seminars and campaigns to mobilize public opinion for abolition of the death penalty;
• Disseminates information by publishing reports and presenting papers at international forums;
• Promotes intellectual and artistic works that support abolition of the death penalty. Builds strategic partnerships with intergovernmental organizations and regional organizations, NGOs and other key stakeholders at national, regional and international level that work on the abolition of the death penalty.

«Experience and evidence demonstrates that the death penalty is cruel, irrevocable and a violation of the right to life. It damages and poisons society by endorsing violence, and by causing injustice and suffering. It carries the constant and appalling risk that innocent people may be executed by mistake.»

Federico Mayor
ICDP President

ICDP is supported and funded by a geographically diverse group of 18 States committed to the abolition of the death penalty. The Support Group carries out its functions under the coordination of a rotating yearly presidency and is composed of the following States: Algeria, Argentina, Belgium, Dominican Republic, France, Italy, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Mongolia, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Togo, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

ICDP has a Secretariat based in Geneva.
ICDP Commissioners

«Quite simply, the death penalty does much harm and no good. It is inherently cruel, risks execution of the innocent, and is ineffective at deterring violent crime. States that have abolished capital punishment often have lower murder rates than those that have yet to do so.»

ICDP Commissioners Mohammed Bedjaoui, Ruth Dreifuss and ICDP President Federico Mayor, opinion piece published by International Herald Tribune / New York Times, 21 February 2013

Mr Federico Mayor
President of ICDP
Former Director General, UNESCO (1987-1999); former Minister of Education and Science, Spain (1981-1982); former Member of European Parliament (1987).

Mr Giuliano Amato
Commissioner
Former Prime Minister, Italy (1992-1993; 2000-2001), Judge of the Constitutional Court of Italy (September 2013-present).

Ms Louise Arbour
Commissioner

Mr Robert Badinter
Commissioner
Former Minister of Justice, France (1981-1986).

Ms Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis
Commissioner
Former Prime Minister, Haiti (2008-2009).

Ms Ruth Dreifuss
Commissioner
Former President (1999) and former Minister of Home Affairs (1993-2002), Swiss Confederation.

Ms Asma Jahangir
Commissioner

Mr Mohammed Bedjaoui
Commissioner

Ms Michèle Duviolar Pierre-Louis
Commissioner
Former Prime Minister, Haiti (2000-2005).

Mr Bill Richardson
Commissioner
Former Governor, New Mexico, USA (2002-2010).

Mr José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero
Honorary Member: Former Prime Minister, Spain (2004-2011).

Mr Ibrahim Najjar
Commissioner
Former Justice Minister, Lebanon (2009-2011).

Ms Hanne Sophie Greve
Commissioner
Judge and Vice President of the High Court for Western Norway, and a former Judge at the European Court of Human Rights (1998-2004).

Ms Ioanna Kucuradi
Commissioner
UNESCO Chair of Philosophy and Human Rights (1998-present); Professor of Philosophy and Director of Center of Research and Application of Human Rights, Maltepe University, Turkey (2006-present).

Ms Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
Commissioner
Former President, Philippines (2001-2010).

Ms Rodolfo Mattarrollo
Commissioner
Ambassador for the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) in Haiti and former Deputy Secretary for Human Rights, Argentina (2003-2007).

Ms Asunta Vivó Cavaller
Secretary General

Mr Eriona Kucuqi
Executive Coordinator

Mr Martin Macpherson
Policy Advisor

Mr Ibrahim Najjar
Commissioner
Former Justice Minister, Lebanon (2009-2011).

Mr Bill Richardson
Commissioner
Former Governor, New Mexico, USA (2002-2010).

Mr José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero
Honorary Member: Former Prime Minister, Spain (2004-2011).

ICDP Secretariat
ICDP has a Geneva-based Secretariat which is responsible for organizing the work of the Commission and gives continuity to it. Further, the Secretariat coordinates the activities of the Support Group and processes information on the question of the death penalty in relation to the activities and priorities of the Commission, in addition to the daily management and administration of the funds for ICDP. The Secretariat is composed of three members of staff:

• Asunta Vivó Cavaller, Secretary General,
• Eriona Kucuqi, Executive Coordinator and
• Martin Macpherson, Policy Advisor

«Regardless of my personal opinion about the death penalty, I do not have confidence in the criminal justice system as it currently operates to be the final arbiter when it comes to who lives and who dies for their crime. If the State is going to undertake this awesome responsibility, the system to impose this ultimate penalty must be perfect and can never be wrong. But the reality is the system is not perfect - far from it.»

ICDP Commissioner and former Governor of the US state of New Mexico Bill Richardson, March 2009

Mr Robert Badinter
Commissioner
Former Minister of Justice, France (1981-1986).

Ms Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis
Commissioner
Former Prime Minister, Haiti (2000-2005).

Ms Asma Jahangir
Commissioner

Mr Mohammed Bedjaoui
Commissioner
Former Foreign Affairs Minister, Algeria (2005-2007); former Judge and President of the International Court of Justice (1982-2001).

Ms Michèle Duviolar Pierre-Louis
Commissioner
Former Prime Minister, Haiti (2000-2005).

Mr Bill Richardson
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Death penalty developments in 2013

Positive developments in 2013

Latvia, Bolivia and Guinea-Bissau ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of death penalty (Second Optional Protocol or Protocol) in April, July and September respectively bringing the number of countries that have ratified the Protocol to 78 States. Angola signed the Second Optional Protocol in September and became the fourth country to sign the Protocol but not to ratify it.

In the USA, public support for capital punishment has dwindled to its lowest level for some 40 years. In May, Maryland became the eighteenth US state to abolish the death penalty in law. Other US states such as Colorado, Delaware, Oregon and New Hampshire are moving closer to abolition.

Setbacks in 2013

Despite the positive trend towards global abolition of capital punishment there were some notable setbacks in 2013.

• Afghanistan executed two persons in 2013.
• In Bangladesh there were two executions, including the first execution that was carried out for crimes committed during the Bangladesh Liberation War in December. In a mass trial, 152 individuals were sentenced to death in November in Dhaka for their alleged role in a mutiny on 25 and 26 February 2009.
• Botswana carried out one execution.
• In China, reports suggest that thousands of executions were carried out in 2013, the total number of executions remains a State secret.
• In India resumed executions in 2012, the first since 2004. There was one execution which was carried out in February 2013.
• In Iran sources suggest that at least 369 individuals were executed in 2013 although the actual figure is likely to be higher as the government does not report all executions and some may take place in secret.
• In Iraq, at least 169 executions were carried out during the year.
• Japan carried out the executions, by hanging, of eight persons, including a 73 year-old man.
• Malaysia carried out at least two executions.
• In North Korea, the government confirmed carrying out the execution of Jong Song-Hak, the uncle of the leader Kim Jong-un and at least two of his aids. Unconfirmed reports suggest that executions were carried out, but because of the secrecy about the use of the death penalty, exact numbers are difficult to obtain.
• In Palestinian Authority three executions were carried out
• In Saudi Arabia carried out at least 79 executions.
• In Somalia, there were reports that at least 34 executions were carried out.
• In South Sudan, at least four executions were reportedly carried out during the year.
• In Sudan reportedly carried out at least 21 executions in 2013.
• In Taiwan carried out six executions.
• In the USA, 39 executions were carried out in 2013 down from 43 in 2012.
• In Yemen, at least 13 executions were reportedly carried out.

( Figures cited from Amnesty International, «Death Sentences and Executions 2013» )

Iran, North Korea, Somalia and Saudi Arabia reportedly carried out public executions during the year.

India, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Sudan, Algeria, Bahrain, the US state of Mississippi and Papua New Guinea expanded the scope of the use of the death penalty in 2013. Papua New Guinea included crimes such as aggravated rape, sorcery-related killings and robbery with violence within the ambit of crimes that carried the death penalty: In India, the penal code was amended (Criminal Law (Amendment), Act 2013) in April 2013 to include rape that would result in the death, or coma, of its victim, or in certain cases of repeat offenders. Bangladesh increased the scope of capital punishment to those adults who utilized children in acts of terror after its Parliament adopted the Children Act 2013 in June. In Algeria, the scope of the death penalty was increased, in December, for kidnappers of children in cases where the child victim died. Bahrain included those charged with bomb attacks with casualties within the scope of crimes that carry the death penalty in July 2013. In the same month, Sudan amended legislation to allow for military courts to prosecute civilians under its military code; some of the crimes carry the death penalty. In April, the US state of Mississippi included acts of terrorism within the scope of crimes carrying the death penalty.
Main activities of ICDP during 2013

University conference on the death penalty by Helsinki Spain FEBRUARY 2013, SWITZERLAND
ICDP attended a conference about the death penalty for university students, organized by Helsinki Spain and held in Madrid on 22 February 2013. ICDP President Federico Mayor spoke on the topic of Abolition of the death penalty: main goals in the near future.

United Nations Human Rights Council high-level side event FEBRUARY 2013, SWITZERLAND
ICDP organized a high-level side event to coincide with the opening session of the UN Human Rights Council on 25 February 2013, providing an opportunity for senior representatives from governments, the UN and the European Union to assess how and why to abolish capital punishment. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon sent a specially recorded message of support. There were contributions from ICDP’s President Federico Mayor and ICDP Commissioner Mr. Mohammed Bedjaoui, Norway’s Secretary of State from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ms Gry Larsen; Spain’s Secretary of State for International Cooperation and Iberoamérica Mr Jesús Gracia; UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights Ms Kyung-Wha Kang; ICDP Commissioner Ms. Ruth Dreifuss; ICDP President, Mr. Federico Mayor; ICDP Commissioner, Mr. Mohammed Bedjaoui; State Secretary, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Gry Larsen and Secretary of State for International Co-operation and Iberoamérica of Spain, Mr. Jesús Gracia Millo.

Mission to Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica MARCH 2013
ICDP participated in a mission to the Caribbean States of Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, and Jamaica – organized by the UK All-Party Parliamentary Group for the abolition of the Death Penalty in collaboration with the Death Penalty Project – from 9-14 March 2013. ICDP Commissioner Ruth Dreifuss and Baroness Scotland from the UK met with officials including Government ministers, Members of Parliament, senior judges, law officers and members of the diplomatic community. Media interviews and public events were organized. The mission was part of ICDP’s follow-up work to the First International Conference on the Death Penalty in the Greater Caribbean, held in Madrid, Spain in 2011, which aimed to develop strategies to support abolition of the death penalty in the Caribbean region.

7th ICDP meeting and launch of ICDP report APRIL 2013, NORWAY
ICDP held its 7th meeting in Oslo on 15 and 16 April 2013. At this meeting, Ms Hanne Sophie Greve – a judge and Vice President of the High Court for Western Norway, and former judge on the European Court of Human Rights – joined ICDP as a new Commissioner. It was also agreed that ICDP would officially support the campaign to encourage States to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, led by the World Coalition against the Death Penalty. In Oslo, ICDP released a report – How States abolish the death penalty? – the purpose of this publication - which has now been translated into French, Spanish, Russian and Tajik - is to put a spotlight on the experiences of 13 States in their pathways to abolishing capital punishment. The report included a foreword by Norway’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Ms Espen Barth Eide.

April 2013, Norway Launch of the ICDP report on ‘How States abolish the death penalty,’ at the Oslo City Hall
Following a meeting between ICDP and Norway’s Minister of Foreign Affairs to exchange views on the death penalty, the report was launched at Oslo City Hall. During the reception following the launch, the Mayor of Oslo welcomed ICDP, and the Secretary of State from Norway’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs endorsed the report and stated that Norway continued to accord high priority to the fight against the death penalty, and that it would oppose the death penalty in all circumstances as a matter of principle. Norway made a commitment to fully support and assist the ICDP in its role as president of the ICDP’s cross-regional Support group.

April 2013, Norway ICDP 7th meeting and launch of its report on ‘How States abolish the death penalty’
Top row from left: ICDP Member Ms. Hanne Sophie Greve, ICDP President Mr. Federico Mayor, ICDP Members Mr. Ibrahim Najjar. Bottom row from left: ICDP Member Mr. Mohammed Bedjaoui, Mr. Ruth Dreifuss and Ms. Ioanna Kucuradi.
ICDP Commissioner Ruth Dreifuss undertook a mission to Tajikistan from 13–16 May 2013 to learn about developments leading to the abolition of capital punishment. Ms Dreifuss met the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon and senior officials, including the Minister of Justice, Chairman of the Constitutional Court, General Prosecutor, Ombudsman, Chairpersons of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, and members of the Working Group on social and legal aspects of the abolition of death penalty. She also had meetings with representatives of the UN, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and civil society leaders. The Working Group, established by President Rahmon in 2010, is considering repeal of capital punishment. An official moratorium on capital punishment was established in 2004, following progressive restrictions on use of the death penalty introduced in 1998 and 2003. Commissioner Dreifuss' mission was a follow-up to her 2011 visit to Tajikistan.

Mission to Tajikistan
MAY 2013, TAJIKISTAN
ICDP

The Preparatory conference for 5th World Congress against the Death Penalty
JUNE 2013, SPAIN
ICDP actively supported the 5th World Congress against the Death Penalty (World Congress) which was held in Madrid from 12-15 June 2013. President Federico Mayor led ICDP’s delegation, which included Commissioners Robert Badinter, Hanne Sophie Greve and Rodolfo Mattarollo, and staff members from ICDP’s Secretariat. More than 1,500 people from over 90 countries attended the event. The ICDP delegation participated as panelists in meetings and workshops, delivered speeches and led bilateral meetings with representatives of Governments, Inter-Governmental Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations and academics to discuss developments, strategies and areas of future cooperation. The World Congress, organized by Ensemble Contre la Peine de Mort (ECPM – Together against the Death Penalty) in partnership with the World Coalition against the Death Penalty, is held every three years.

Council of Europe Roundtable in Belarus
JUNE 2013, BELARUS
The Council of Europe organized a roundtable – ‘Belarus: Religion and Death Penalty’ – in Minsk on 23 June 2013, as part of discussions with the Government of Belarus that aim to make progress towards abolition of capital punishment in the country. Belarus is Europe’s only remaining nation that carries out executions. The roundtable featured discussions and awareness-raising through an exchange of views among clergy, national institutions, civil society and international experts. ICDP Commissioner Hanne Sophie Greve participated as an international expert, and presented a paper titled, ‘The human being created ‘in the image of God’. Enhance Human Dignity – Abolish Death Penalty.’

Meeting with Chinese academics and legal practitioners
JUNE 2013, CHINA
On 25 July 2013, ICDP Commissioner Ruth Dreifuss met with a delegation of Chinese academics and legal practitioners led by Mr. Song Yinghui, Vice Dean, College for Criminal Law Science at the Beijing Normal University to discuss a range of death penalty issues. Ms Dreifuss presented ICDP and its work, explained why ICDP opposes capital punishment, and also presented ICDP’s report ‘How States abolish the death penalty’. Ms Dreifuss welcomed measures introduced by the Supreme Court of China to regulate and restrict the imposition of death penalty in China as a step towards its eventual abolition. She also emphasized the need for public information on the use of the death penalty. In the subsequent exchange of views, there was discussion on punishment for violent crime, public support for capital punishment and the death penalty as a deterrent.

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting
OCTOBER 2013, POLAND
ICDP participated in the annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting organized by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), in Warsaw, Poland from 23 September to 4 October 2013. On 2 October, ICDP Commissioner Hanne Sophie Greve took part in a working session that focused on the rule of law. During this session, she moderated a discussion which included an exchange of views on the abolition of capital punishment. Commissioner Greve also participated in a side event on ‘Abolishing the death penalty in the OSCE region: the role of civil society and intergovernmental organizations’. This side event was co-organized by Andorra, the European Union, Norway, San Marino, Serbia and Switzerland.

11th World Day against the Death Penalty
OCTOBER 2013, SWITZERLAND
ICDP and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) commemorated the World Day against the Death Penalty by jointly organizing a panel discussion – ‘Parliamentarians a critical force in promoting the abolition of the death penalty’ – at Geneva’s International Conference Center on 10 October 2013. The event considered the global trend towards abolition of the death penalty, and the role of Members of Parliament (MPs) in the world-wide movement against capital punishment. ICDP President Federico Mayor delivered a welcome address together with IPU President Mr Abdulwahad Radi, Mr Mayor, ICDP Commissioner Ruth Dreifuss and Barone Stern, Member of Parliament and Chair of the UK’s All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Abolition of the Death Penalty, gave presentations to the assembled parliamentarians. Oliver Robertson from Penal Reform International presented the results of his organisation’s recent opinion poll in Belarus, while MPs from Morocco and Kazakhstan highlighted their work to abolish capital punishment in their countries. MPs from Algeria, Australia, Bahrain, Belarus, Chad, Japan, Jordan, Pakistan, Peru, Suriname and Zambia participated in the event.

"Parliamentarians are important actors in consolidating this process because they can take action including passing laws to abolish capital punishment. We encourage all parliamentarians to actively support the global trend towards abolition of the death penalty." - ICDP Commissioner and former Minister of Justice of France, Mr Robert Badinter.
Expert seminar in Bangkok: moving away from the death penalty in South East Asia

OCTOBER, THAILAND

On 22 and 23 October 2013, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in co-operation with the Ministry of Justice of the Kingdom of Thailand, organized an expert seminar in Bangkok on ‘Moving away from the death penalty in South East Asia’. Commissioner Ibrahim Najjar participated in the seminar on behalf of ICDP. Prominent international experts, representatives from Governments, the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, Parliaments, National Human Rights Institutions, the legal profession, academia and civil society participated in this event.

International Conference of Ministers of Justice

NOVEMBER, ITALY

ICDP President Federico Mayor participated in the opening session of the International Conference of Ministers of Justice titled ‘A World without the Death Penalty – No Justice without Life’ which was organized by the NGO Community of Sant’Egidio in Rome on 29 and 30 November. President Mayor spoke about international strategies to achieve global abolition of the death penalty and the contribution of ICDP. He also highlighted the important role that Ministers of Justice can play in ending the use of capital punishment.

ICDP held the 8th meeting of its Commissioners in Brussels on 2-3 December 2013. During the two-day meeting, the Commissioners met Mr Dirk Achtern, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and European Affairs of the Government of Belgium to introduce the Commission. The Commissioners also met with Ms Barbara Lochbihler, Member of the European Parliament and the Chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights of the European Parliament; Mr Stavros Lambrinidis, EU Special Representative for Human Rights and Mr Bernardino Leon, EU Special Representative for the Southern Mediterranean region and exchanged views on the abolition of the death penalty and possible areas of future cooperation. During the meeting, the Commissioners considered a summary of its main activities since its creation in October 2010 and followed it up with a discussion of a three-year strategic plan for 2014-2016.

ICDP Commissioner Ms Amina Jahangir spoke about the situation of the death penalty in Pakistan.

ICDP Commissioner Mr Ibrahim Najjar spoke about his participation in a two-day expert seminar in Bangkok on ‘Moving away from the death penalty in South East Asia’ that was organized by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of the Kingdom of Thailand in October 2013.

As part of its work to promote the ratification by States of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ICDP invited Professor Marc Bossuyt to address the Commission. He spoke about his role as UN Special Rapporteur in charge of drafting the Second Optional Protocol between 1985 and 1988. He underlined the importance of the Second Optional Protocol as a tool for achieving universal abolition of the death penalty. His contribution was very timely because 2014 marks the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Second Optional Protocol by the UN General Assembly.

«Every executing State still has the choice and the opportunity not to be burdened with such an unenviable legacy. As we shine a spotlight on this ultimate abuse of human rights today, the message is clear: with political courage, every nation could immediately suspend use of the death penalty as a step toward full abolition.»

Bill Richardson, ICDP Commissioner and Former Governor of New Mexico.

The year 2014 will witness the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Second Optional Protocol’s adoption by the UN General Assembly. As an official supporter of the Second Optional Protocol Campaign, led by the World Coalition against the Death Penalty, ICDP will continue to support efforts to encourage more States to ratify this Protocol.

Hanne Sophie Grev, ICDP Commissioner, Judge and Vice President of the High Court for Western Norway and former Judge of the European Court of Human Rights.

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December 2013, Brussels

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«Every executing State still has the choice and the opportunity not to be burdened with such an unenviable legacy. As we shine a spotlight on this ultimate abuse of human rights today, the message is clear: with political courage, every nation could immediately suspend use of the death penalty as a step toward full abolition.»

Bill Richardson, ICDP Commissioner and Former Governor of New Mexico.
Communication strategy and digital media

ICDP’s communication strategy provides a framework for increasing the effectiveness of communication work with key audiences. We use press statements, letters to the editor, feature articles and interviews to influence the debate through analysis and commentary. ICDP issued 30 statements during 2013 and 12 Opinion pieces.

ICDP uses social media platforms including LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook. We publish a monthly newsletter since March 2013 and regularly update our web site.

«Full global abolition would be a true victory for humanity. Fortunately, the question now is no longer one of ‘if’ – it is one of ‘when.’»

Ibrahim Najjar, ICDP Commissioner and former Minister of Justice of Lebanon
Developing strategic partnership

Since its creation, ICDP has developed strategic partnerships with Inter-Governmental Organizations such as the Council of Europe, Working Group on Death Penalty and Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary killings in Africa of the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the European Union and the United Nations, in particular the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the UK All Party Parliamentary Group on abolition of the Death Penalty. We also work closely with academics, governments in other countries and NGOs as a reference.

Publication

ICDP Review 2010-2012, October 2013

The 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.

http://issuu.com/icdp/docs/icdp_annual_report

Report on ‘How States abolish the death penalty’, April 2013

The study reviews the experiences of 13 countries where steps have been taken towards full abolition of the death penalty. The narrative is followed by a brief description of lessons learnt from the experiences of these countries. It has been translated into English (http://issuu.com/icdp/docs/report_english), Russian (http://issuu.com/icdp/docs/report_russian) and Tajik (http://issuu.com/icdp/docs/report_tajik)

The report has been widely used by the UN, EU, Government authorities in other countries and NGOs as a reference.

Auditor’s Report 2013

Auditor’s Report to the Secretariat of the International Commission against the Death Penalty

In accordance with our mandate, we have audited the financial statements (balance sheet, operating accounts) of project AF 3130 Against the death penalty, pertaining to the activities of the ICDP for the year 1 January to 31 December 2013.

Responsibility of the ICDP Secretariat

Responsibility for compiling the financial statements of project AF 3130 Against the death penalty lies with the ICDP Secretariat.

The auditor’s responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements on the basis of our audit. This audit has been carried out in accordance with Swiss auditing standards.

By these standards, we are required to comply with a code of ethics, and to plan and conduct our audit with a view to obtaining reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves following procedures designed to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The auditor exercises professional judgment in deciding which procedures to follow, including in assessing the risk that the financial statements contain material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In making this assessment, the auditor considers the internal control system in place for compiling the financial statements in order to define the appropriate audit procedures in the circumstances, rather than to express an opinion on the effectiveness of internal controls. An audit also involves assessing the suitability of accounting methods followed and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Accounting principles and restrictions on the distribution and use of this report

The financial statements have been drawn up to meet the requirements of the aforementioned agreements and letters. Consequently, they may not be suitable for any other purpose. Our report is for the ICDP Secretariat only and should not be distributed to third parties outside the ICDP Secretariat.

Geneva, 27 February 2014

[Translated from French original]

UNIFID S.A.

(Signed) E. SCHWARZ (certified expert auditor, auditor in charge)

(Signed) C. BADI (certified expert auditor)
Annex

Statement issued by ICDP during 2013:

Imminent execution of Edgar Tamayo Arias
(http://www.icomdp.org/2013/07/imminent-execution-of-edgar-tamayo-arias/) 15-16 April 2013

More executions in Bangladesh
(http://www.icomdp.org/2013/02/second-execution-in-india-on-the-case-of-pablo-ibanez/) 21 February 2013


Indonesia resumes executions (http://www.icomdp.org/2013/07/30/indonesia-resumes-executions/) 27 July 2013

UN Human Rights Council event calls for global abolition of the death penalty (http://www.icomdp.org/2013/06/8th-hrc-meeting-in-brussels-on-executions/) 5-6 June 2013

Maryland (USA) close to abolishing the death penalty (http://www.icomdp.org/2013/05/maryland-death-penalty-064449.shtml) 28 May 2013

Maryland (USA) close to abolishing the death penalty (http://www.icomdp.org/2013/05/maryland-death-penalty-064449.shtml) 28 May 2013

21 people sentenced to death in Egypt 
(http://www.icomdp.org/2013/06/21-people-sentenced-to-death-in-egypt/) 26 June 2013

Second execution in India in just three months
(http://www.icomdp.org/2013/06/second-execution-in-india/) 12 March 2013

Use of the death penalty in the USA continues to decline
(http://www.icomdp.org/2013/06/use-of-the-death-penal-in-the-usa/) 6 December 2013


Second execution in India
(http://www.icomdp.org/2013/05/second-execution-in-india-on-the-case-of-pablo-ibanez/) 21 February 2013

Maryland, USA, abolishes the death penalty (http://www.icomdp.org/2013/05/maryland-abolishes-the-death-penalty/) 10 April 2013

Maryland (USA) close to abolishing the death penalty (http://www.icomdp.org/2013/05/maryland-death-penalty-064449.shtml) 28 May 2013

Maryland (USA) close to abolishing the death penalty (http://www.icomdp.org/2013/05/maryland-death-penalty-064449.shtml) 28 May 2013

Support grows for UN Protocol to abolish the death penalty (http://www.icomdp.org/2013/06/11/support-grows-for-un-protocol-to-abolish-the-death-penalty/) 11 June 2013

Indonesia resumes executions (http://www.icomdp.org/2013/07/30/indonesia-resumes-executions/) 30 July 2013

Two more executions in India (http://www.icomdp.org/2013/05/two-more-executions-in-india/) 7 May 2013

Second execution in Southeast Asia
(http://www.icomdp.org/2013/05/secon-execution-in-southeast-asia/) 24 May 2013

Executions in Saudi Arabia (http://www.icomdp.org/2013/05/executions-in-saudi-arabia/) 23 May 2013

Executions in Iraq continue (http://www.icomdp.org/2013/05/executions-in-iraq-continue/) 23 May 2013

Kuwait resumes executions (http://www.icomdp.org/2013/05/kuwait-resumes-executions/) 23 May 2013

Opinion Pieces by ICDP and Interviews during 2013:


Article by Member of ICDP and Ambassador for UNASUR in Haiti, Rodolfo Mattarollo and Ambassador for the EU in Argentina, Alessio De Vito on the occasion of the World Day against the Death Penalty, 10 December 2013. Visit Website (http://www.unasur.org/2013/12/29/intercambio-hablar-y-compartir-de-la-experiencia-de-la-abolicion-de-la-pena-de-muerte/)

Article by Mr Mayor President of the ICDP on the 5th World Congress against the Death Penalty, IPS, 28 May 2013. Visit Website (http://www.ipsnoticias.net/2013/05/5th-world-congress-against-the-death-penalty/)

Article by Mr Mayor President of the ICDP on the 5th World Congress against the Death Penalty, 15-16 April 2013. Visit Website (http://www.dawn.com/news/1035552/death-penalty-5th-world-congress-against-the-death-penalty)

Article by Mr Ibrahim Najaar, Member of ICDP in O’Riordan Le Jour, 8 March 2013. Visit Website (http://www.oirondanaujor.be/article.php?12471940380622912471940380624)

Interview with ICDP Mr. Federico Mayor for Amnesty International, 6 February 2013. Visit Website (http://www.ain.org Từ điển và từ vựng tiếng Việt)