



**International Commission  
against the Death Penalty**

**President**

Federico Mayor

**Members**

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Louise Arbour

Robert Badinter

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**Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty:  
Another “botched” execution in United States**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) strongly condemns the execution on 23 July 2014 of Joseph Wood by authorities in the US state of Arizona.

Mr Wood, 55, was executed by lethal injection. The execution lasted 117 minutes causing prolonged pain and cruelty to Mr Joseph Wood. According to reports reaching ICDP, he gasped more than 600 times before he died.

In the past few months, two other “botched” executions were reported in the US: in January, Dennis McGuire was executed after 25 minutes in Ohio, and in April, Clayton Lockett’s execution was completed after 43 minutes in Oklahoma.

“ICDP and I express our deep concern that authorities in US states continue to carry out executions. In particular, we are distressed to hear reports that “botched” executions continue to be carried out in the US, as seen more recently during the execution of Mr Joseph Wood. I note that following this execution, Arizona Governor Jan Brewer has reportedly ordered a review of the state's lethal-injection procedures. ICDP calls on the authorities in Arizona to stop carrying out any further executions, to commute all death sentences to terms of imprisonment and declare an official moratorium on executions as a first step towards abolition of capital punishment,” said ICDP President Federico Mayor.

The US remains one of two countries in the G8 to carry out executions. According to the United Nations, some 160 countries from all regions have abolished the death penalty or do not execute – having recognized that modern justice systems can protect the public from crime without the irrevocable and cruel nature of the death penalty and the constant risk of executing an innocent person.

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President of the International Commission  
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## Background

ICDP was founded in Madrid in October 2010. ICDP is composed of 15 persons 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 18 states from all regions of the world that are committed to abolition of the death penalty. Its secretariat is based in Geneva.