



## Factsheet: International Commission against the Death Penalty

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) was established on 7 October 2010 in Madrid, as a result of the Spanish Initiative to reinforce the global trend towards the abolition of the death penalty. ICDP was created in order to contribute with its work to promote, complement or support any action which aims at **obtaining the universal abolition of the death penalty**.

### The International Commission

ICDP is an independent body composed of several high-profile Commissioners with experience in international law and human rights and is committed to the total abolition of the death penalty. These eminent individuals represent all regions of the world and include former presidents, prime ministers, government ministers, senior United Nations officials, a former US state governor, a former judge and president of the International Court of Justice, a senior judge and a leading academic. Due to the high moral standards of its members and its regionally balanced composition, the International Commission has a high visibility on the international level. It acts with full independence and strives for the highest attainable level of neutrality.



## The members of the Commission are:

**Federico Mayor** (Spain): President of ICDP. Former Director General of the UNESCO and former Minister of Education and Science of Spain.

**Giuliano Amato** (Italy): Former Prime Minister and Judge of the Constitutional Court of Italy.

**Louise Arbour** (Canada): Former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and former Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

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

**Mohammed Bedjaoui** (Algeria): Former Foreign Minister of Algeria and former Judge and President of the International Court of Justice.

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

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

**Hanne Sophie Greve** (Norway): Judge and Vice President of the High Court for Western Norway and former Judge at the European Court of Human Rights.

**Asma Jilani Jahangir** (Pakistan): Former President of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan.

**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.

**Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo** (Philippines): Former President of the Philippines.

**Ibrahim Najjar** (Lebanon): Former Minister of Justice of Lebanon.

**Bill Richardson** (USA): Former Governor of New Mexico.

## Honorary Member

**Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero** (Spain): Former Prime Minister of Spain.

## Founding Member

**Rodolfo Mattarollo** (Argentina), 1939-2014: Former Deputy Secretary for Human Rights in Argentina.



## Mandate

**Universal abolition of the death penalty in law for all crimes.**

## Goals

- **Promote abolition in law** 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.

## Delivery of goals

ICDP implements its mandate in a number of ways including:

- Interventions with political leaders and high representatives in specific countries;
- Visits to countries to discuss issues related to the death penalty;
- Strategic partnerships with intergovernmental organizations and regional organizations, NGOs and other stakeholders at national, regional and international level that work on the abolition of the death penalty;
- Organization of public events including discussion panels, conferences, side-events at international forums on various aspects of abolition of the death penalty;
- Appeals and statements – in particular where individuals are at imminent risk of execution;
- Participation in conferences, seminars and in campaigns to mobilize public opinion for abolition of the death penalty;
- Publications to promote abolition of the death penalty; and
- Promoting intellectual and artistic works that support abolition of the death penalty.

## The Support Group

The work of ICDP is supported and funded by a geographically diverse group of 18 countries committed to the abolition of the death penalty.

The Support Group 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 United Kingdom.

The Support Group carries out its activities under the coordination of a rotating yearly presidency. Argentine holds the current Presidency until October 2014. Past presidencies were: Spain October 2010 to October 2011, Switzerland October 2011 to October 2012 and Norway October 2012 to October 2013.

## The Secretariat

The Commission and the Support Group have a Secretariat based in Geneva, 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 addition to the daily management and administration of the funds.

## Contact Information

For further information on the ICDP please visit our official website

[www.icomdp.org](http://www.icomdp.org)

or contact the Secretariat.

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