



International Commission  
against the Death Penalty

**President**

Federico Mayor

**Members**

Giuliano Amato

Louise Arbour

Robert Badinter

Mohammed Bedjaoui

Ruth Dreifuss

Michèle Duvivier  
Pierre-Louis

Hanne Sophie Greve

Asma Jilani Jahangir

Ioanna Kuçuradi

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Ibrahim Najjar

Bill Richardson

**Honorary Member**

José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero

**Founding Member**

Rodolfo Mattarollo  
(1939-2014)

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Madrid, 22 January 2015

**Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty:  
ICDP welcomes Mr. Horacio Verbitsky as its new Commissioner**

The President of the ICDP Mr Federico Mayor announced on 22 January that Mr. Horacio Verbitsky has accepted to become the new member of the Commission.

“I warmly welcome Mr Horacio Verbitsky, the well-known Argentinian journalist, writer and human rights activist, as ICDP Commissioner. Mr Verbitky, who is highly respected in South America and beyond for his writings and his experience as a prominent human rights actor, will be a very important voice from Latin America for ICDP in its fight against the death penalty”, said Mr. Federico Mayor, the President of the Commission.

According to the United Nations (UN), more than 160 Members States of the UN who practice a variety of legal systems, traditions, cultures and religious backgrounds, have either abolished the death penalty or do not practice it.

As its predecessor, Mr. Rodolfo Mattarollo, who passed away on 18 June 2014, Mr Verbitsky is joining ICDP with the trust and hope of most relevant regional and global instances of coordination, that will promote and strengthen the observance of human rights worldwide and generate social and political debates leading to the eradication of the practice of the death penalty” said Mr. 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 currently 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 ICDP is supported by a diverse group of 18 states from all regions of the world that are committed to the abolition of the death penalty. Its secretariat is based in Madrid.