



**International Commission
against the Death Penalty**

President

Federico Mayor

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Giuliano Amato

Louise Arbour

Robert Badinter

Mohammed Bedjaoui

Ruth Dreifuss

Michèle Duvivier
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Madrid, 29 April 2015

**Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty:
Eight executions carried out by Indonesian authorities**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) expresses very serious concern at receiving reports that Indonesian authorities carried out the executions of eight persons on 29 April 2015.

The authorities carried out the executions of eight men, all found guilty of drug-related charges, included one Indonesian national, 50 year-old Zainal Abidin; three Nigerian nationals – 50 year-old Raheem Agbaje Salami, 47 year-old Silvester Obiekwe Nwaolise and 41 year-old Okwudili Oyatanze; one Ghanaian national – 50 year-old Martin Anderson; two Australian nationals – 31 year-old Andrew Chan and 34 year-old Myuran Sukumaran and a Brazilian national – 42 year-old Rodrigo Gularte. The executions were carried out by shooting by a firing squad in the prison island of Nusa Gambangan. Mr Gularte was reportedly suffering from mental illness.

Two persons, French national Serge Atlaoui and Filipino national Mary Jane Veloso, were reportedly spared the mass execution, albeit temporarily. 30 year-old Ms Veloso's sentence was deferred by the Indonesian government to a request by the Government of the Philippines to allow her the chance to testify against a woman who reportedly claimed to have recruited her as an unknowing drug courier. 51 year-old Mr Atlaoui was granted a temporary reprieve after the Indonesian government agreed to allow an outstanding legal appeal to run its course.

"I am shocked that despite concerns on decisions of some of the eight men by the Indonesian judiciary, despite concerns of adequate defence in at least one of the cases, despite one of the men, Mr Gularte, suffering from mental illness, the Indonesian authorities carried out the executions today. While I do understand the seriousness and the urgent need identified by the Indonesian Government to resolve its drugs situation/problem, there is no clear evidence by its carrying out these mass executions, the Indonesian authorities will be able to deter such crimes," said ICDP President Federico Mayor.

On 22 April 2015, in a press statement, ICDP expressed its serious concerns at the executions of two Indonesian nationals, Siti Zainab Binti Duhri Rupa and Karni Binti Medi Tarsim which were carried out by Saudi Arabian authorities on 14 and 16 April 2015 respectively, despite the Indonesian Government's efforts for their lives and calls for forgiveness and clemency.

"I call on the Indonesian Government to use its famed culture of forgiveness and tolerance and the respect for the fundamental right to life. The protection for the right to life is also recognized in Indonesia's Constitution and so we urge President Joko Widodo and his authorities to take the historic step to stop carrying out any further executions and to establish an official moratorium on



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the use of the death penalty in line with United Nations General Assembly Resolutions adopted in 2007, 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014.”

ICDP believes that the death penalty is a cruel and inhuman punishment that amounts to a denial of human dignity and integrity. The death penalty violates the right to life as recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and is the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment.

ICDP further calls on Indonesia to join some 160 countries from all regions who, according to the United Nations, 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.

Federico Mayor
President of the International Commission
against the Death Penalty

Background

Composed of 16 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. The Commission 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. The Commission 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 Madrid.