



Madrid, 13 May 2015

## **Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: Suriname abolishes the death penalty**

**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

Navanethem (Navi) Pillay

Ibrahim Najjar

Bill Richardson

Horacio Verbitsky

**Honorary Member**  
José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero

**Founding Member**  
Rodolfo Mattarollo  
(1939-2014)

**Secretariat**  
Serrano Galvache, 26,  
Torre Sur, 10 planta,  
Despacho 10-78,  
28071 Madrid,  
Spain  
Tel: +00 34 91 3799458  
asunta.vivo@icomdp.org  
info@icomdp.org

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

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) welcomes the criminal code in Suriname which came into effect on 13 April 2015, which effectively abolishes the death penalty in that country. According to reports that ICDP received, the penal code was published in the National Gazette (Staatsblad) on 13 April after President Dési Bouterse signed it on 30 March. The new criminal code does not include provisions for the capital punishment.

“ICDP and I warmly congratulate Suriname for taking the historic decision to bring into effect the penal code that ensures the effective end to executions in the country. In taking this step, Suriname has shown an inspirational example which we hope other States in the region will follow in consolidating the global trend towards abolition of the death penalty,” said ICDP President Federico Mayor.

ICDP believes that the death penalty violates the fundamental right to life proclaimed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and should not be applied in any circumstances, regardless of the gravity of the crime.

“We hope that soon Suriname will become party to the two protocols aiming at the abolition of the death penalty: the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights to abolish the death penalty reaffirming its commitment to abolition of capital punishment,” said Mr. Mayor.

By abolishing capital punishment, ICDP is pleased to note that Suriname joins the growing number of States that support the respect for the fundamental right to life and, thereby, human dignity. According to the United Nations, some 160 countries from all regions in the world have abolished the death penalty or do not execute having recognized that modern justice systems can protect the public without the death penalty’s cruelty and constant risk of executing an innocent person.

Federico Mayor  
President of the International Commission  
against the Death Penalty



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## 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.