



International Commission  
against the Death Penalty

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Federico Mayor

**Members**  
Giuliano Amato

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Madrid, 5 June 2015

## **Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: 138 executions carried out by Pakistan authorities since December 2014**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP or Commission) expresses very serious concern at receiving reports that suggest that, as of 3 June, authorities in Pakistan have carried out at least 138 executions since the death penalty was resumed at the end of December 2014 after the abhorrent Peshawar massacre.

According to reports reaching ICDP, one of the executions carried out in Pakistan was that of Munir Hussain, who was executed in Vehari prison in Punjab province on 28 April, after being found guilty of murder in 2000. ICDP is very concerned to note unconfirmed reports that Mr. Hussain was a long-term sufferer of serious mental illness. His condition had reportedly worsened so much during his imprisonment that he had no recollection of his life prior to his arrest and he could not recognize members of his family.

ICDP urges the Pakistani authorities to note that the execution of mentally-ill people like Mr Munir Hussain is illegal under international and Pakistani law

“I am shocked that Pakistan has now become one of the world’s most prolific executioners. We, at the ICDP, believe that the death penalty is not the answer to Pakistan’s law and order situation. There is pressure on the government authorities to undertake a firm response in situations where violent crime is seen to be spiralling and horrific attacks, such as the 16 December tragic massacre at a school in Peshawar which we at ICDP strong condemn, have been carried out. Within that context, the death penalty can be perceived as a deterrent to addressing escalating criminal behaviour. However, there is no convincing evidence that the death penalty is a particular deterrent in capital crimes compared to other forms of punishment.” said ICDP President Mr. Federico Mayor.

ICDP is also gravely concerned at reports that this serious spike in executions includes a number of cases where there have been allegations of lack of due process. Moreover, there are concerns that the ages of those whose executions have been carried out are seriously disputed.

ICDP welcomes the order on 16 April 2015, by the Supreme Court, of a temporary suspension of implementation of death sentences passed by military courts following a petition made to the Supreme Court, filed on behalf of the Supreme Court Bar Association, by ICDP Commissioner Asma Jahangir.

“I urge the authorities in Pakistan to stop carrying out any further executions and to restore the official moratorium on the use of the death penalty that Pakistan had put in place since 2008, in line with United Nations General



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Assembly Resolutions adopted in 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012. A step towards this moratorium would be to make permanent the 16 April order by the Supreme Court," said Mr Mayor.

ICDP further calls on Pakistan 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**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty is 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.