



International Commission
against the Death Penalty

President

Federico Mayor

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Giuliano Amato

Louise Arbour

Robert Badinter

Mohammed Bedjaoui

Ruth Dreifuss

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**Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty: A
Call to authorities in Republic of Maldives to halt an Imminent Execution**

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) expresses its serious concerns at receiving reports that 23 year-old Maldivian national, Mr. Hussain Humaam Ahmed, is at risk of imminent execution by authorities in the Republic of Maldives (referred as Maldives hereafter).

Mr. Ahmed was sentenced to death in 2014 for the alleged murder of former Member of Parliament and religious scholar, Mr. Afrasheem Ali in 2012. The Maldives Supreme Court upheld the sentence of death penalty on 24 June 2016.

Mr. Ahmed faces imminent execution after the reinstatement of the death penalty by the Government of the Maldives in 2014 when it reportedly adopted the Regulation on the Implementation of the Death Penalty, without passing a law, as required by Article 21 of the Constitution. This article provides that "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of the person, and the right not be deprived thereof to any extent except pursuant to a law made in accordance with Article 16 of this Constitution."

"I urge the authorities in the Maldives to immediately halt any plans to resume executions and to continue the moratorium that the country has observed for over six decades. At ICDP, we believe that the right to life is the most fundamental right of human rights and so we call on authorities in the Maldives to establish an official moratorium on all executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty," said ICDP President Mr Federico Mayor.

According to reports reaching the ICDP, Mr. Hussain Humaam Ahmed's investigation was still ongoing at time of the verdict and the verdict was based on pre-trial confession, which was obtained under duress. A claim that Mr. Ahmed is suffering from a psycho-social or intellectual disability and a request for an independent evaluation of the defendant's mental health status had been reportedly disregarded by the court.

The ICDP is highly concerned that Mr. Hussain Humaam Ahmed has reportedly been deprived of his defence rights by the court and that criminal proceedings appear to not follow a fair trial and due process. We note Article 52 of the Constitution of the Maldives, which states that "No confession shall be admissible in evidence unless made in court by an accused who is in a sound state of mind. No statement or evidence must



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be obtained from any source by compulsion or by unlawful means and such statement or evidence is inadmissible in evidence.”

The ICDP is calling on the Maldivian authorities to immediately commute the death sentences imposed on Mr. Hussain Humaam Ahmed and all other prisoners to terms of imprisonment.

The death penalty is a cruel and inhuman punishment that amounts to a denial of human dignity and integrity. The course of action that is being adopted by the Maldives contradicts and bucks the worldwide trend of abolition of the death penalty.

The ICDP further calls on the Maldives to join some 102 countries from all regions who, according to the United Nations, have abolished the death penalty for all crimes, 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
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against the Death Penalty

Background

Composed of 17 Commissioners, who are persons of high international standing from all regions of the world, the ICDP acts with total independence and neutrality and works under its President Mr. Federico Mayor.

The 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.

The 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 the 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.