



International Commission  
against the Death Penalty

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**Founding Member**

Rodolfo Mattarollo,  
(1939-2014)

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**Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty:  
Death of Ms. Asma Jilani Jahangir, ICDP Commissioner.**

It is with great sadness that the International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP) announces the passing away, on 11 February, of ICDP Commissioner Ms. Asma Jilani Jahangir.

Ms. Asma Jahangir was one of the founding Commissioners of ICDP when it was established in October 2010. She was an advocate of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, one of the leading voices on human rights in her country, Pakistan. She was one of the key legal advocates against the death penalty in Pakistan and a leading figure in the campaign waged by the women activists against the promulgation of the controversial Hadood Ordinances and draft law on evidence. Moreover, she defended cases of discrimination against religious minorities, women and children. She was the founding Chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan and was elected as the President of the Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan.

Commissioner Jahangir was highly respected internationally for her unstinting, tireless work in the field of human rights. She was the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions from 1998 to July 2004, the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief from August 2004 to July 2010 and was the current UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran, having assumed the position in November 2016. She represented ICDP in March 2014 at the High Level Panel on the Question of the Death Penalty organized by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva.

It was a great honor for us to have Commissioner Asma Jahangir among the most active members of the ICDP. She was an inspiration to our work, a passionate, deeply committed defender of human rights, a courageous voice who constantly reminded us of the situation of those under sentence of death, especially the persons who were from the marginalized sections of society. She leaves an irreplaceable void. We shall miss her deeply. Our thoughts are with all her family.

Judge Navi Pillay  
President  
International Commission  
against the Death Penalty



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## Background

ICDP was founded in Madrid in October 2010. ICDP is composed of 21 personalities of high international standing from all regions of the world who act with total independence and neutrality and work under its President Judge Navi Pillay.

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 the ICDP is supported by a diverse group of 19 States from all regions of the world that are committed to abolition of the death penalty. Its secretariat is based in Madrid.