



**International Commission
against the Death Penalty**

Madrid, 29 April 2019

ICDP 04/2019

President

Navanethem (Navi) Pillay

Vice-Presidents

Ruth Dreifuss

Ibrahim Najjar

Members

Louise Arbour

Marc Bossuyt

Helen Clark

Marzuki Darusman

Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis

Tsakhagiin Elbegdorj

Hanne Sophie Greve

Sylvie Kayitesi

Ioanna Kuçuradi

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Bill Richardson

Ivan Simonovic

Horacio Verbitsky

Honorary Members

Giuliano Amato

Robert Badinter

Mohammed Bedjaoui

Federico Mayor Zaragoza

José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero

Marta Vilardell

Founding Members

Rodolfo Mattarollo,
(1939-2014)

Asma Jilani Jahangir
(1952-2018)

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

Statement by the International Commission against the Death Penalty on the mission to the Republic of Cuba: Thursday 25 – Friday 26 April 2019

A delegation of the International Commission against the Death Penalty, headed by its President Judge Navi Pillay, visited Havana, the Republic of Cuba, from 21 to 26 April 2019. The delegates included ICDP Executive Director Asunta Vivó, and ICDP Director of Policy Dr Rajiv Narayan. The delegation held meetings and discussed issues related to the situation of the death penalty in Cuba with the Director General of Multilateral Affairs Ambassador Rodolfo Reyes Rodríguez, President of the People's Supreme Court HE Rubén Remigio Ferro, the Attorney General of the Republic HE Yamila Peña Ojeda, President of the National Assembly of the People's Power HE Esteban Lazo Hernández, a luncheon meeting hosted by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Anayansi Rodríguez Camejo and Minister of Foreign Affairs HE Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla.

The meetings were marked with in-depth discussions and several authorities admitted that they would consider reducing the scope of the death penalty. The ICDP visit comes at a time when Cuba is considering adjustments to its Criminal Code to implement the clauses of the new Constitution that came into effect in April 2019.

“Noting the current situation where the last death penalty sentences in Cuba were handed out in 2003; that commutations of the last prisoners facing the death penalty were carried out in 2010, which has resulted in the country not having a single prisoner under the sentence of death, I have called on the Governmental authorities in all my meetings to build on these developments and move gradually but firmly away from capital punishment. Moreover, Article 46 of the new Constitution, which came into effect earlier this month, states that all persons have the right to life. The death penalty does not fit Cuba anymore,” said President Navi Pillay.

The delegation also had meetings with Havana-based diplomats of Member-States of ICDP's Support Group.

“I join my fellow ICDP Commissioners and members of the delegation in expressing my warm gratitude at the friendliness and hospitality that marked the meetings organized by the Cuban Government and their willingness to listen to



**International Commission
against the Death Penalty**

President

Navanethem (Navi) Pillay

Vice-Presidents

Ruth Dreifuss

Ibrahim Najjar

Members

Louise Arbour

Marc Bossuyt

Helen Clark

Marzuki Darusman

Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis

Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj

Hanne Sophie Greve

Sylvie Kayitesi

Ioanna Kuçuradi

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

Bill Richardson

Ivan Simonovic

Horacio Verbitsky

Honorary Members

Giuliano Amato

Robert Badinter

Mohammed Bedjaoui

Federico Mayor Zaragoza

José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero

Marta Vilardell

Founding Members

Rodolfo Mattarollo,
(1939-2014)

Asma Jilani Jahangir
(1952-2018)

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

our recommendations. We look forward to continue our engagement as the country moves with gradual steps to join the majority of countries that have ended the practice of the death penalty. By doing so, Cuba can, as it has shown in many socio-economic indicators, provide an inspiration to countries in the Caribbean region and beyond in the better respect, protection and fulfilment of the right to life," said President Pillay.

Judge Navi Pillay
President of International Commission
against the Death Penalty

Background

Composed of 22 Commissioners, who are persons of high international standing and who represent all regions of the world, ICDP acts with total independence and neutrality and works under its President Judge Navi Pillay.

ICDP opposes the death penalty under any circumstances. The death penalty violates the right to life enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, whose 70th anniversary is being observed this year. 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. ICDP works with the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, governments and nongovernmental organizations to further the abolition of capital punishments worldwide.

The work of ICDP is supported by a diverse group of 22 Member-States including two Observer States from all parts of the world who are committed to the abolition of the death.