



The International Commission against the Death Penalty – Information leaflet

The International Commission against the Death Penalty (ICDP or Commission) was established on 7 October 2010 in Madrid as a unique initiative led by Commissioners, all high-level personalities from every region of the world and who are committed to the universal abolition of the death penalty. The ICDP's activities, which aim to play a key role in the international abolitionist movement, are supported by a Support Group of Member-States from all regions of the world. Its Secretariat is based in Madrid.

An international Commission

ICDP is an independent body led of 22 high-profile Commissioners who are former Heads of State, Heads of Government, Ministers, senior officials of the United Nations, judges, acclaimed academics and journalists, all of whom strongly believe in and work for the eventual abolition of the death penalty. They come from diverse backgrounds and are from all regions of the world, demonstrating the universal concern for abolishing capital punishment. As ICDP Commissioners, they do not officially represent their countries. Their experience as leaders, their knowledge and esteem, their independence and global geographical representation – and their personal involvement in abolishing the death penalty – enable them to engage effectively with senior officials from different countries, and provide ICDP with a high profile in the international arena.



Our Commissioners:

- **Navanethem (Navi) Pillay (President):** Former UN High Commissioner of Human Rights; former judge on the International Criminal Court; former judge on the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda; former judge of the High Court of South Africa.
- **Ruth Dreifuss (Vice President):** Former President, former Vice President and former Minister of Home Affairs, Swiss Confederation.
- **Ibrahim Najjar (Vice President):** Former Minister of Justice, Lebanon.
- **Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis (Steering Committee Member):** Former Prime Minister, Haiti.
- **Hanne Sophie Greve (Steering Committee Member):** Judge and Vice President of the High Court for Western Norway; former judge at the European Court of Human Rights.



- **Louise Arbour:** UN Special Representative of the Secretary General for International Migration; former UN High Commissioner of Human Rights; former justice of the Supreme Court of Canada and the Court of Appeal for Ontario; former Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.
- **Marc Baron Bossuyt:** Member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; former Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration; former Judge and President of the Belgian Constitutional Court; former Chairperson of the UN Commission and the UN-Sub-Commission on Human Rights; author of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.
- **Helen Clark:** Former Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); former Prime Minister of New Zealand.
- **Marzuki Darusman:** Chair of the United Nations' Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar; former UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; former Chair of the UN Secretary General's Panel of Experts on Sri Lanka; former Attorney General of Indonesia.
- **Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj:** Former President; former Prime Minister, Mongolia.
- **Zainabo Sylvie Kayitesi:** Deputy Chief Justice of Supreme Court of Rwanda; President of the Working Group on Death Penalty and Extra-Judicial, Summary or Arbitrary killings in Africa; Commissioner for the African Commission on Human and People's Rights and Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Refugees, Migrants and Internal Displaced People in Africa; President of the National Human Rights Commission in Rwanda; former Minister of Public Service and Labour of Rwanda.
- **Ioanna Kuçuradi:** UNESCO Chair of Philosophy and Human Rights; Professor of Philosophy and Director of Center of Research and Application of Human Rights, Maltepe University, Turkey.
- **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo:** Speaker of the House of Representatives; former President, the Philippines.
- **Bill Richardson:** Former Governor, New Mexico, USA; former US Secretary of Energy; former US Ambassador to the United Nations.
- **Ivan Šimonović:** Professor at the Faculty of Law at the University of Zagreb; Former Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights; former Minister of Justice of Croatia; former Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and former Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations in New York.
- **Horacio Verbitsky:** Chair of the Center for Legal and Social Studies Journalist, journalist and author.
- **Federico Mayor (Honorary President):** Chairman of the Foundation for a Culture of Peace, Former Director General, UNESCO; former Minister of Education and Science, Spain; former Member of European Parliament.
- **Giuliano Amato (Honorary Commissioner):** Judge of the Constitutional Court of Italy; former Prime Minister, former Deputy Prime Minister, former Minister (several Portfolios), former Senator, Italy; former Vice President of the Convention on the Future of Europe that drafted the European Constitution.
- **Robert Badinter (Honorary Commissioner):** President of the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in the O.S.C.E.; former President of the Constitutional Council; former Senator; Former Minister of Justice, France; former President of the Arbitration Commission of the Peace Conference on Yugoslavia.
- **Mohammed Bedjaoui (Honorary Commissioner):** Former Foreign Affairs Minister, Algeria; former Ambassador of Algeria to France and the United Nations; former President of the Constitutional Council of Algeria; former Judge and President of the International Court of Justice.
- **Marta Vilardell Coma (Honorary Commissioner):** Former Ambassador of Spain with special mission on issues - humanitarian, social and against the death penalty; former Ambassador of Spain to Malta.
- **José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero (Honorary Commissioner):** Former Prime Minister, Spain.

The Support Group

ICDP is supported and funded by a geographically diverse group of 22 Member-States including two Observer States committed to the abolition of the death penalty. The Support Group is composed of the following full Member States: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Mongolia, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Togo, Turkey and United Kingdom; and two Observer States: Canada and New Zealand.

ICDP Secretariat

ICDP has a Secretariat, based in Madrid, which is responsible for implementing and giving effect to the policies and decisions of the Commissioners including organizing meetings, missions and visits of the Commission. Furthermore, the Secretariat coordinates the activities of the Support Group and processes information regarding the death penalty in relation to the activities and priorities of the Commission. The Secretariat is in charge of the daily management and administration of the funds, as also leading on fund-raising strategies for ICDP.

Mandate

To promote, complement or support actions that aim for the global abolition of the death penalty.



Objectives

- Promote the abolition of capital punishment in law in countries, particularly those that apply a *de facto* moratorium on use of the death penalty;
- Promote the establishment of a death penalty moratorium in all regions of the world, as a step towards total abolition;
- Intervene in specific cases where law restricts its application – in particular, when it restricts the most vulnerable sections of society (juvenile offenders, pregnant women, and the mentally ill).

Actions to achieve the objectives in a strategic and selective manner by:

- Intervening with high representatives and personalities in specific countries;
- Visiting countries to engage with high-ranking officials;
- Organizing and/or participating in public events including discussion panels, conferences, side-events at international forums on issues related to abolition of capital punishment;
- Issuing appeals and statements – in particular where individuals are at imminent risk of execution;
- Disseminating information by publishing reports and presenting papers at international forums;
- Promoting intellectual and artistic works that support abolition of the death penalty;
- Building partnerships with intergovernmental organizations and regional organizations, civil society organizations and other key stakeholders at national, regional and international level that work on the abolition of the death penalty.

Contact Information

Visit our website at www.icomdp.org for further information on the ICDP.

You can also contact ICDP Secretariat:

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