

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 20/14/96

25 March 1996

Further information on UA 39/96 (ASA 20/06/96, 16 February 1996) - Death Penalty

INDIAGantela Vijayavardhana Rao, aged 25

Satuluri Chalapathi Rao, aged 24

Amnesty International has learned that the Supreme Court hearing concerning the death sentences passed by the High Court of Andhra Pradesh on Gantela Vijayavardhana Rao and Satuluri Chalapathi Rao is to be on 2 April 1996. It is unclear how long the appeal will take.

Please note the change of officials to address below. Under the Indian Constitution, Governors of states have powers to commute death sentences.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in english or in your own language:

- urging that the death sentences on Gantela Vijayavardhana Rao and Satuluri Chalapathi Rao not be carried out and that their sentences be commuted;
- repeating unconditional opposition to the death penalty as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- reiterating that the death penalty has never been shown to have a unique deterrent effect.

APPEALS TO:

President Shankar Dayal Sharma
Office of the President
Rashtrapati Bhavan
New Delhi 110 004, India

Telegrams: President of India, New Delhi, India

Faxes: +91 11 301 7290

Salutation: Dear President

Mr Krishna Kanth
Governor of Andhra Pradesh
Office of the Governor
Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India

Telegrams: Governor, Hyderabad, India

Faxes: + 91 40 234 055 [ATTN: Governor of Andhra Pradesh (ask for fax tone)]

Salutation: Dear Governor

COPIES TO:

Justice A.M. Ahmadi
Chief Justice of India
The Supreme Court
Tilak Marg
New Delhi 110 001, India

and

Mr Chandrababu Naidu
Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh

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Office of the Chief Minister
Hyderabad
Andhra Pradesh, India

and to diplomatic representatives of India accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 May 1996.