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EXTRA 09/92 Death Penalty

31 January 1992

Malaysia **See Hee Meng**
 Chun Soon Eng
 Rozami Yaakob

On 14 January 1992 the Supreme Court sitting in Kuala Lumpur rejected the appeals against the death sentences imposed on See Hee Meng, Chun Soon Eng and Rozami Yaakob by the High Court in Kuala Lumpur on 29 June 1988, 16 November 1988 and 18 December 1990 respectively.

See Hee Meng, a taxi-driver, was found guilty of trafficking in 155.11 grams of heroin on 14 January 1985. Chun Soon Eng, a car-repossessor, was found guilty of trafficking in 30.37 grams of heroin on 13 November 1985. Rozami Yaakob, a trader, was found guilty of trafficking in 26,774.73 grams of cannabis on 29 March 1988.

All death sentences in Malaysia are automatically reviewed by a Pardons Board. As all three of these cases were originally heard by the High Court in Kuala Lumpur, these cases will now be reviewed by the Pardons Board for the Federal Territory, which will pass its recommendations to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong (King), who has sole authority to grant pardon, suspend or commute the sentence. This is the last avenue of appeal for clemency. To Amnesty International's knowledge, however, there have been only two occasions when a Pardons Board has recommended commutation of a death sentence.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The death penalty is provided for under a number of laws in Malaysia and is mandatory for some firearms offences, murder, and for certain drugs offences.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases 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.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes and faxes:

- expressing concern that See Hee Meng, Chun Soon Eng and Rozami Yaakob have been sentenced to death and that they may now face execution as the Supreme Court has upheld this decision;

- stating Amnesty International's unconditional opposition to the death penalty;

- urging that the all death sentences, including those of See Hee Meng, Chun Soon Eng and Rozami Yaakob, be commuted and that no more death sentences be imposed.

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APPEALS TO:

Supreme Head of State:

DYMM Sultan Azlan Shah
Yang di-Pertuan Agong
Istana Negara
50500 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia

**Telegrams: His Majesty Sultan Azlan Shah
Istana, Kuala Lumpur**

Telexes: 31107 AGONG MA

Salutation: Your Majesty

Prime Minister:

YAB Dato' Seri Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad
Prime Minister
Prime Minister's Office
Jalan Dato' Onn
50502 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia

**Telegrams: Prime Minister Mahathir
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

**Telexes: 33099 PERMA MA; 30091 LARAS MA;
30098 EPUPM MA**

(for the attention of Prime Minister Mahathir)

Faxes: + 60 3 238 3784

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

COPIES TO:

Minister of Justice:

YB Datuk Syed Hamid bin Syed Jaafar Albar
Ministry of Justice
21st Floor
Bangunan Kuwasa
Jalan Raja Laut
50506 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia

Attorney General:

Datuk Sri Datuk Abu Talib Othman
Attorney General

20th Floor, Bangunan Bank Rakyat
Jalan Raja Laut
50506 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia

and to diplomatic representatives of Malaysia in your own country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 13 March 1992.