

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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This request for action is being sent to seven sections only by e-mail/telex/fax only as a limited number of appeals is needed. Please organize up to fifteen appeals per section.

EXTRA 55/91

Death Penalty

21 August 1991

MALAYSIA

Rusli bin Man
Mat Sharif bin Sulaiman

On 7 August 1991 the Supreme Court dismissed the appeals of two men sentenced to death on 5 April 1987 by the Alor Star High Court for drug trafficking. Rusli bin Man, a labourer, and Mat Sharif bin Sulaiman, a petrol pump operator, had been found guilty of trafficking in 4,266gm of cannabis at Kampong Baru, Kedah on 28 December 1983.

All death sentences in Malaysia are automatically reviewed by a Pardons Board. As the cases of Rusli bin Man and Mat Sharif bin Sulaiman were originally heard by the Alor Star High Court, their cases will be reviewed by the Pardons Board for Kedah. It will pass its recommendations to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong (King), who has sole authority to grant pardon or 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 Pardon's Board has recommended commutation of a death sentence.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION (this is the same as TLX 48/91)

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.

From 1985 to the end of December 1990, 84 executions took place to Amnesty International's knowledge.

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 punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern that Rusli bin Man and Mat Sharif bin Sulaiman have been sentenced to death and that as this decision has been upheld by the Supreme Court they may face execution;
- stating Amnesty International's unconditional opposition to the death penalty;
- urging that the sentence be commuted and that no more death sentences be imposed.

APPEALS TO:

The Ruler of Kedah:

DYMM Tuanku Haji Abdul
Halim Mu'adzam Shah inbi
Al-Marhum Sultan Badlishah
Istana
Alor Star
Kedah, Malaysia

Your Majesty

Telegrams: Ruler Kedah, Alor Star, Kedah, Malaysia
Telexes: 42265 SUKED MA

Menteri Besah of Kedah State
Office of the Menteri Besah
Alor Star
Kedah, Malaysia

Dear Sir

Telegrams: Kedah State Menteri Besah, Alor Star, Kedah, Malaysia

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

**Dear Prime
Minister**

Telegrams: Prime Minister, 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
+ 60 3 238 7214
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Attorney General's Office
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50350 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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

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and to diplomatic representatives of Malaysia in your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 2 October 1991.