

**SINGAPORE Julaiha Begum (f), aged 52**

---

Julaiha Begum faces imminent execution after her appeal for presidential clemency has been denied.

Julaiha Begum, an ethnic Indian born in Singapore, was sentenced to death in March 2000 for the murder of her husband, T.Maniam, in April 1999. She and her two alleged accomplices, who were also sentenced to death, had appealed against their sentences to the Court of Appeal, but their appeals were rejected in late 2000. Last week, the President, S.R. Nathan, reportedly denied Julaiha Begum clemency. She is likely to be executed by hanging shortly. Her lawyer has not yet been informed of the date of execution, but executions are usually carried out at dawn on Fridays.

It is not known what has happened to Loganatha Venkatesan and Chandran Rajagopal, the two 25-year-olds sentenced to death for allegedly helping Julaiha Begum kill her husband, since the Court of Appeal rejected their appeals.

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, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The death penalty is an inherently unjust and arbitrary punishment, however heinous the crime for which it is provided. Studies have shown that it is more likely to be imposed on those who are poorer, less educated and more vulnerable than average. The risk of error in applying the death penalty is inescapable, yet it is irrevocable.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Singapore, with a population of only 3 million, has one of the highest rates of executions per capita in the world. Recent government figures show that 340 people have been executed since 1991. The death penalty is mandatory for drug-trafficking, murder, treason and certain firearms offences. In the last 10 years, 247 people have been executed for drug-trafficking, 89 for murder and 4 for firearms offences.

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

- urging the President to reconsider this case, and to commute Julaiha Begum's death sentence;
- expressing sympathy for the families of the victims of heinous crime;
- expressing your unconditional opposition to the death penalty as a violation of one of the most fundamental of human rights - the right to life;
- recognizing the need to combat serious crime, but emphasizing that there is no proof that the death penalty deters crime more effectively than other punishments.

**APPEALS TO:**

The President  
His Excellency S R Nathan  
Office of the President  
Istana, Orchard Road  
Republic of Singapore 0922

**Telegrams: President S R Nathan, Singapore**  
**Faxes:+ 65 738 4673**  
**Salutation:Your Excellency**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

The Prime Minister

The Honourable Goh Chok Tong  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Istana Annexe,  
Orchard Road  
Republic of Singapore 0923

**Telegrams:Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, Singapore**  
**Faxes:+ 65 732 4627**

Minister of Law

Professor Shanmugham Jayakumar  
Ministry of Law  
250 North Bridge Road  
07-00 Raffles City Tower  
Republic of Singapore 179101

**Telegrams:FOREIGN RS 21242, RS21 136, RS20358**  
**Faxes:+ 65 339 433**  
**e-mail: supmlaw@cs.gov.sg**

Minister of Home Affairs

Wong Kan Seng  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
Phoenix Park  
Tanjong Road  
Republic of Singapore 247904

**Faxes:+ 65 734 4420**  
**Telegrams:Minister of Home Affairs, Singapore**

and to diplomatic representatives of Singapore accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.**