

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 256/92 Death Penalty

6 August 1992

THAILAND: Thongchai Tikham

Amnesty International is concerned that a death sentence which was imposed on Thongchai Tikham over two years ago may be carried out soon. On 27 July the Supreme Court ruled that the sentence should be upheld. According to Thai law, after the Supreme Court has finalized a death sentence, the defendant is allowed 60 days to make a final appeal to the King for pardon or commutation.

Thongchai Tikham was sentenced to death by the Criminal Court on 16 May 1990 after being found guilty of murdering a boxing promoter in March 1988. The Appeals Court upheld the sentence on 16 July 1991. Under Thai law the death penalty is mandatory for premeditated murder. At least 21 people have been sentenced to death in Thailand since the beginning of 1990. It is not known if any executions have taken place.

Royal Pardon has been announced to mark the 60th birthday of Her Majesty the Queen on 12 August. As a part of this Pardon, those prisoners whose death sentences have been finalized by the courts will have their sentences commuted to life imprisonment. It is not known whether Thongchai Tikham will qualify for commutation under this Royal Pardon.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases without reservation 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: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern that the death sentence imposed on Thongchai Tikham may be carried out now that it has been upheld by the Supreme Court;
- pointing out that the death penalty is 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;
- welcoming reports that those death sentences which have been finalized in the courts will be commuted under a Royal Pardon to mark the 60th Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen on 12 August;
- urging that the death sentence imposed on Thongchai Tikham also be commuted.

APPEALS TO:

- 1) His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej

The Grand Palace
Na Phra Lan Road
Bangkok 10200
Thailand

Telegrams: King Bhumibol Adulyadej, Bangkok, Thailand
Telexes: 72222 MAJESEC TH
Faxes: + 222 243249

Salutation: Your Majesty

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2) Police General Pow Sarasin
Minister of Interior
Ministry of Interior
Asdang Road
Bangkok 10200
Thailand

Telegrams: Minister of Interior, Bangkok, Thailand
Telexes: 84791 IMFODEP TH (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Faxes: + 66 2 224 6191; + 66 2 223 2215

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Anand Panyarachun
Prime Minister
Office of the Prime Minister
Government House
Nakhorn Pathom Road
Bangkok 10300
Thailand

and to diplomatic representatives of Thailand accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 17 September 1992.