

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 36/004/2003

26 September 2003

Further Information on UA 177/03 (ASA 36/001/2003, 19 June 2003) Imminent execution

SINGAPORE Arunprakash Vaithilingam (m), aged 24, Indian national

The execution of Arunprakash Vaithilingam has reportedly been scheduled for 3 October, following the rejection of his appeal for clemency to the President of Singapore.

Arunprakash Vaithilingam, a migrant worker from India, was sentenced to death in December 2002 after being convicted of the murder of his room-mate, who was stabbed to death during a drunken argument. At his trial, Arunprakash Vaithilingam stated that he had not intended to kill his room-mate and that initially he did not even realize he had stabbed him. He and several friends who had witnessed the argument immediately rushed the wounded man to hospital, but he was pronounced dead shortly afterwards. Despite eyewitness evidence, the Singapore High Court found Arunprakash Vaithilingam guilty of murder, an offence which carries a mandatory death sentence.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language:

- urging the authorities to reconsider the decision to refuse clemency in the case of Arunprakash Vaithilingam;
- calling on the authorities to commute his death sentence immediately;
- expressing sympathy for the victims of violent crime, but pointing out that the death penalty has never been shown to have a unique deterrent effect;
- urging the authorities to establish an immediate moratorium on executions, with a view to abolition, in line with recommendations by the United Nations Commission for Human Rights.

APPEALS TO:

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Salutation: Dear Minister

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Salutation: Dear Attorney General

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Telegram: Chief Justice, Singapore

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COPIES TO: Diplomatic representatives of Singapore accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.