

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 20/30/00

13 July 2000

**Further information on EXTRA 154/99 (ASA 20/38/99, 4 November 1999) and follow-ups (ASA 20/39/99, 5 November 1999, ASA 20/06/00, 15 March 2000 and ASA 20/29/00, 10 July 2000) - Death penalty / Fear of imminent execution**

**INDIAGovindaswamy**

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Govindaswamy's execution has been stayed until 23 July.

The Ministry of Home Affairs in New Delhi ordered the 10-day stay of execution on the evening of 12 July, two days before he was scheduled to hang. The order was faxed to the Tamil Nadu state government but no reason was given for the stay of execution.

The new date of execution coincides with a conference on the death penalty being held in New Delhi, organized by members of the Campaign Against the Death Penalty.

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

- expressing grave concern that the President of India has rejected Govindaswamy's clemency petition;
- welcoming the temporary stay of execution but expressing concern that a further date has been set;
- urging the authorities to use the 10-day stay to carefully consider the setback to human rights in India that this execution would signal;
- calling for Govindaswamy's death sentence to be commuted to a term of imprisonment;
- expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and emphasising that the death penalty has never been shown to have a special deterrent effect.

**APPEALS TO:**

Mr K.R. Narayanan  
President of India  
Office of the President  
Rashtrapati Bhavan  
New Delhi 110 004, India  
**Telegrams: President, New Delhi, India**  
**Faxes: + 91 11 301 7290 / 7824 / 7077**  
**Salutation: Dear President Narayanan**

Mr L.K. Advani  
Minister of Home Affairs  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
North Block  
New Delhi 110 001, India  
**Telegrams: Home Minister, New Delhi, India**  
**Faxes: +91 11 301 5750**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Mr Ram Jethmalani  
Minister of Law and Justice

Ministry of Law and Justice  
Shastri Bhavan  
Dr Rajendra Prasad Road  
New Delhi 110 001, India  
**Telegrams: Law Minister, New Delhi, India**  
**Faxes: +91 11 338 7259**  
**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

Mr Karunanidhi  
Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu  
Office of the Chief Minister  
Chennai  
Tamil Nadu, India  
**Faxes: +91 44 536 6929/536 1441**  
**Salutation: Dear Chief Minister**

and to diplomatic representatives of India accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 23 July 2000.