

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 39/05/99

24 November 1999

Further information on EXTRA 144/99 (ASA 39/03/99, 13 October 1999) - Fear of imminent execution

**KINGDOM OF THAILAND at least 36 people on death row**

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One woman and two men were executed by machine-gun at Bang Khwaang Maximum Security Prison in Bangkok on 23 November 1999. This brings the number of people executed so far this year to 16, an unprecedented high number in recent years.

Fifty-nine year old Samai Pan-intara, who had been convicted of heroin trafficking, was reportedly the first woman to be executed in Thailand for 20 years. According to Amnesty International's records, she was also the first person to be executed for drug trafficking since executions resumed in January 1996. Prayuth Pholpanthu, 38, and Htaho Pauy, a Myanmar national, had been convicted of murder.

At least 36 people face imminent execution, having exhausted all appeals against their death sentences. Officials are reported to have said that there are 40 people on death row. Amnesty International fears that more executions have been scheduled. The authorities do not give details of death sentences or scheduled executions.

The increase in the number of executions in Thailand contravenes recommendations by the United Nations. In April 1999 the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights passed a resolution calling on states retaining the death penalty to "progressively restrict the number of offences for which the death penalty may be imposed", "to establish a moratorium on executions, with a view to completely abolishing the death penalty", and "to make available to the public information with regard to the imposition of the death penalty". In addition, in December 1996 the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions called for the elimination of the death penalty for economic and drug-related offences.

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

- condemning the execution of Samai Pan-intara, Prayuth Pholpanthu and Htaho Pauy on 23 November;
- expressing concern that at least 36 people who have exhausted all their appeals against their death sentences may be scheduled for execution;
- urging the authorities to establish an immediate moratorium on all executions, to commute all outstanding death sentences, and to take steps to remove the death penalty from all legislation, in line with international standards and recommendations from the United Nations Commission for Human Rights adopted in its most recent resolution in April 1999.

**APPEALS TO:**

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**Salutation:Dear Prime Minister**

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Ministry of Interior  
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and to diplomatic representatives of the Kingdom of Thailand accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 22 December 1999.