

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Death Penalty

23 August 1994

SINGAPORE Angel Mou Puipeng (f), aged 25, Portuguese citizen, born in Macau, resident of Hong Kong

Amnesty International has learned that Angel Mou Puipeng's appeal against her death sentence was rejected by Singapore's Court of Criminal Appeal in the week preceding 17 July 1994. Her only hope for clemency now lies with President Ong Teng Cheong.

Angel Mou Puipeng was arrested on 29 August 1991 in Changi airport in possession of 5.6 kilograms of heroin. Her initial trial took place in the Singapore High Court between March and April 1993. She confessed to participation in transporting goods for a sum of HK \$50,000 from Thailand to Europe via Singapore, but claimed she thought the goods were Rolex watches. Angel's 23-year-old sister Mei Mei admitted to successfully completing a separate courier run from Bangkok to Europe, but was not charged as her testimony led to the conviction of the man responsible for recruiting the sisters as couriers, namely Triad member Ah Hung. He was imprisoned for 4 years in Hong Kong for committing acts "... preparatory to trafficking in dangerous drugs". This illustrates the disparity between sentencing for drugs related crime between countries, whereby the organizer of a drugs ring receives 4 years imprisonment in Hong Kong, and a young courier receives the death penalty in Singapore.

Angel Mou Puipeng has a 7-year-old son.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The death penalty was employed during the colonial period and was retained after Singapore became an independent republic in August 1965. Anyone found in possession of more than 15 grams of heroin, 30 grams of morphine, 30 grams of cocaine or 500 grams of cannabis is presumed guilty of drug trafficking and is liable to a mandatory death sentence.

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.

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

- urging the President to commute the death sentence imposed on Angel Mou Puipeng;
- stating Amnesty International's unconditional opposition to the death penalty, and urging that all existing and pending death sentences be commuted.

APPEALS TO:

The President

His Excellency Ong Teng Cheong
Office of the President
Istana, Orchard Road
Republic of Singapore 0922

Telegrams: President Ong Teng Cheong, Singapore

Faxes: +65 732 4627 (for the attention of: President Ong Teng Cheong)

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

The Prime Minister
The Honourable Goh Chok Tong
Office of the Prime Minister
Istana Annexe, Istana
Republic of Singapore 0923
Faxes: +65 732 4627

Minister of Law
Professor Shanmugham Jayakumar
Ministry of Law
250 North Bridge Road
Raffles City Tower 21-00
Republic of Singapore 0617

and to diplomatic representatives of SINGAPORE accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 4 October 1994.