

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Death Penalty

19 July 1994

MALAYSIA

Mokhtar Hassan, aged 46, taxi driver

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Amnesty International has learned that on 7 June 1994 the Supreme Court rejected the appeal of Mokhtar Hassan, a taxi driver in Kuala Lumpur. He had been sentenced to death on 9 March 1992 for trafficking in 36.30 gm of heroin on 23 April 1991.

The only hope for a pardon or commutation for Mokhtar Hassan now resides with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong (King of Malaysia and Supreme Head of State).

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In Malaysia, the death penalty is mandatory for a number of offences: murder, drug-trafficking, unauthorised possession of firearms and use of firearms with intention to cause injury or death.

In 1975 the Dangerous Drugs Act of 1952 was amended, making the death penalty the maximum sentence for drug-trafficking. Since April 1983 the death penalty has been mandatory for drug-trafficking on conviction of possession of 15 grams of heroin or morphine, 200 grams of cannabis, or 1,000 grams of opium.

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

- expressing concern at the imposition of the death penalty on Mokhtar Hassan and urging that the sentence be commuted;
- stating Amnesty International's 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, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

#### APPEALS TO

Yang di-Pertuan Agong

DYMM Tuanku Jaafar Ibni

Al-Marhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman

Istana Negara

50500 Kuala Lumpur

MALAYSIA

**Faxes: +60 3 230 4626**

**Telegrams: Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

**Salutation: Your Majesty**

#### COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Prime Minister

YAB Dato' Seri Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad

Prime Minister's Department

Jalan Dato' Onn

50502 Kuala Lumpur

MALAYSIA

**Faxes: +60 3 238 3784; +60 3 238 7214; +60 3 238 7215**

Minister of Justice

Datuk Syed Hamid bin Syed Jaafar Albar  
Ministry of Justice  
21st-22nd Floor  
Bangunan Kuwasa  
Jalan Raja Laut  
50506 Kuala Lumpur  
MALAYSIA  
**Faxes: +60 3 292 4754**

and to diplomatic representatives of Malaysia accredited to your country

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 30 August 1994.