

**ADPAN NEWSLETTER NO. 2/2012**  
**April-June 2012**

This is the second edition this year of the ADPAN Newsletter covering April, May and June 2012. It provides links to significant death penalty news stories from across the Asia Pacific region.

The Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network (ADPAN) is an independent, impartial network of individuals, NGOs, lawyers and activists from 24 countries that are committed to working for an end to the death penalty in their own countries and across the Asia Pacific region.

Please distribute the ADPAN Newsletter widely, pass on to your networks, place online and use in any campaigning work against the death penalty.

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### **ADPAN Statement Resumed Executions in Japan: ADPAN Appeals for an End to the Death Penalty**

On 29 March ADPAN issued a statement condemning the resumed executions in Japan. ADPAN Coordinator Louise Vischer stated “Public opinion is not to be ignored but the task to inform and lead the general public is key to appreciating and understanding the case for abolition – this is reflected in many studies looking at the global trend”. The statement called for an end to executions in Japan.

*29/03/2012 ADPAN*

<http://adpan.net/2012/03/31/japan-executions-resume-adpan-appeals-for-an-end-to-the-death-penalty-and-fears-further-executions/>

### **ADPAN Joint Open Letter signed by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan and Amnesty International to halt the execution of Behram Khan**

On 28 May ADPAN called on President Asif Ali Zardari to halt the execution of Behram Khan and to establish a moratorium on executions. It noted that this execution would end a four year stay on executions in Pakistan. The statement reiterated concerns that the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 restricted public access to courts, and put judges under extreme pressure to convict.

*28/05/2012 ADPAN*

<http://adpan.net/2012/05/28/pakistan-open-letter-urgent-request-to-halt-the-execution-of-behram-khan>

### **Singapore's death penalty practice raised at UN Consultation**

On 25-26 June, the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions and the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel inhuman or degrading treatment organised a two-day consultation on the death penalty at Harvard University, USA. Singaporean lawyer and ADPAN member Mr M Ravi was invited to give his views on the death penalty in Singapore. The consultation included the application of the death penalty for “the most serious crimes, and the death penalty and torture and concerns around the case of Yong Vui Kong, a Malaysian under sentence of death in Singapore for drug offences.

*29/06/2012 Public House*

<http://publichouse.sg/categories/topstory/item/656-spores-death-penalty-raised-at-un-consultation>

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### CHINA

#### **In China, Public Outcry Softens Sentence for Wu Ying**

In 2009, businesswoman Ms. Wu Ying was sentenced to death by a court in the Zhejiang province, for allegedly cheating investors out of 380 million yuan (\$60 million). In April, the Supreme Court overturned this ruling and on 21 May it was reported that Wu Ying had been sentenced to death with a two-year reprieve – such sentences are almost always commuted to life imprisonment. Wu's case attracted wide public attention on the internet with many arguing that the death sentence was too harsh, a rare case of the Chinese public demanding clemency.

He Weifang, a legal scholar at Beijing University, said, “the Chinese legal system is not independent. Public opinion does not affect sentencing directly, but it impacts the [country's] leadership, and they influence the sentences”.

*22/05/2012 Times of India, CS Monitor*

[http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-05-22/china/31815598\\_1\\_death-sentence-china-s-supreme-court-chinese-court](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-05-22/china/31815598_1_death-sentence-china-s-supreme-court-chinese-court)

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-Pacific/2012/0522/In-China-public-outcry-softens-sentence-for-Wu-Ying>

#### **China vows to observe more stringent judicial procedures for death penalty**

It was announced in the National Human Rights Action Plan of China (2012-2015), published by the State Council Information Office, that the trials of death penalty cases will be more open to the public. Guidelines and regulations will be introduced to guarantee openness and fairness including systems to protect witnesses and eliminate illegal evidence. All confessions by suspects extracted by torture or other illegal methods will be eliminated.

*11/06/2012 Global Times, China Digital Times*

<http://globaltimes.cn/content.714176.shtml>

<http://chinadigitaltimes.net/2012/06/report-vows-tighter-death-penalty-procedures/>

### INDIA

#### **Prathiba Patil commuted death sentence of 35 people**

Prathiba Patil, has approved 35 mercy petitions from death row prisoners during her term in office, the highest number in the history of the country by any head of state.

Article 72 of the Indian Constitution empowers the President to give pardons, however he/she is guided by the home minister and council of ministers.

*22/06/2012 Indian Express, Deccan Herald*

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/pratibha-patil-commuted-death-sentence-of-35-people/965520/>

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/259221/prez-patil-has-pardoned-35.html>

#### **Prez commutes death sentence of servant who killed 3 persons**

On 29 April, President Pratibha Patil commuted the death sentence of Om Prakash, a domestic help who had been sentenced to death for alleged murder by the Supreme Court. Om Prakash was believed to be only 15, a juvenile, at the time of the offence.

*20/05/2012 Hindustan Times, Deccan Chronicle*

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/article3438952.ece>

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/channels/nation/north/prez-commutes-death-help-454>

### **Khurshid favours abolition of death penalty**

On 26 June, India's Law and Justice Minister Salman Khurshid stated that in his personal opinion, the death penalty should be abolished. The statement was made as a response to a query following his keynote address at a function to mark the International day in support of victims of torture.

*26/06/2012 First Post India, Hands off Cain*

<http://www.firstpost.com/india/death-penalty-should-be-abolished-says-khurshid-358357.html>

<http://www.handsoffcain.info/news/index.php?iddocumento=16307605>

### **MALAYSIA / PHILIPPINES**

#### **Malaysia pardons 3 Filipinos on death row**

On 30 May, the Malaysian government pardoned three overseas Filipino workers on death row in Sabah. Philippines Vice-President Binay thanked the Malaysian government for granting the pardons, but also cautioned Filipinos in Malaysia not to be lured by criminal syndicates into becoming drug mules or to engage in the illegal drug trade.

*30/05/2012 The Sun Star, Tempo*

<http://www.sunstar.com.ph/breaking-news/2012/05/30/malaysia-pardons-3-filipinos-death-row-224218>

<http://www.tempo.com.ph/2012/vp-jejomar-binay-malaysia-pardons-3-ofws-on-death-row/>

### **USA**

#### **Connecticut abolishes the death penalty**

On 22 April, Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy signed bill SB280, which replaces the death penalty in Connecticut with life without parole for all new cases. Connecticut thus became the 17<sup>th</sup> American state to abolish the death penalty. The last execution in the state was in 2005, the only one in the past 51 years.

*22/06/2012 BBC, Guardian*

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-17849177>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/apr/25/connecticut-repeals-death-penalty>

#### **Arkansas high court blocks use of death penalty**

On 22 June, the Supreme Court of Arkansas ruled that the current legislation governing the carrying out of the death penalty was unconstitutional. The legislation gives the Department of Corrections and its director authority to choose which lethal drugs should be used and was deemed to violate the separation of powers between the legislative and executive branches of government. The ruling effectively bars future executions until a new statute is passed.

*22/06/2012 Chicago Tribune, Boston*

[http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-06-22/news/sns-rt-us-usa-arkansas-deathpenaltybre8511bk-20120622\\_1\\_lethal-injection-death-sentences-death-row](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-06-22/news/sns-rt-us-usa-arkansas-deathpenaltybre8511bk-20120622_1_lethal-injection-death-sentences-death-row)

[http://articles.boston.com/2012-06-22/news/32371195\\_1\\_lethal-injection-execution-law-primary-method](http://articles.boston.com/2012-06-22/news/32371195_1_lethal-injection-execution-law-primary-method)

## REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ASIA PACIFIC

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### CHINA

#### **A woman who organised a ring for kidnapping and selling 223 babies has been sentenced to death in China**

Jiang Kaizhi, 51, has been sentenced to death after being found guilty of trafficking 223 babies between late 2009 through August 2010.

17/06/2012 *Couriermail, Nodeju*

<http://www.couriermail.com.au/ipad/death-penalty-for-stolen-babies/story-fn6ck55c-1226397712761>

<http://www.nodeju.com/23426/woman-gets-death-penalty-for-trading-babies.html>

### CHINA / TAIWAN

#### **China executes 3 Taiwanese for drug trafficking**

On 26 June, marking the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, China executed four convicted drug traffickers, 3 of which were Taiwanese. 117 people were sentenced for drug trafficking offences on the day, of which at least 15 were given the death sentence. 9 of the 15 were however given a two year reprieve, which means that their sentences are likely to be commuted to life imprisonment.

26/06/2012 *Taipei Times Zeenews*

<http://www.taipetimes.com/News/front/archives/2012/06/27/2003536353>

[http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/china-executes-3-taiwanese-for-drug-trafficking\\_783966.html](http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/china-executes-3-taiwanese-for-drug-trafficking_783966.html)

### INDONESIA

#### **Death for drugs in Indonesia not a deterrent**

On 8 June, General Gories Mere, head of Indonesia's National Narcotics Agency (BNN), said that even though there were 58 convicts on death row for drug offences, execution did not seem to be deterring other would-be drug offenders. He also stated that, regardless of the heavy punishment prescribed, drug-related crimes had increased threefold in the past two years. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime said it had also noted a similar increase.

10/06/2012 *The Jakarta Globe*

<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/home/death-sentence-no-deterrent-for-indonesias-drug-smugglers-bnn-chief/523270>

### INDONESIA / SAUDI ARABIA

#### **Indonesian mission working toward solving 32 maids cases**

On 27 June, the Indonesian Embassy declared that it is working hard to save 32 women workers currently facing the death penalty in Saudi Arabia. 22 Indonesian death row inmates were granted clemency last year in Saudi Arabia, yet there are around 17,000 Indonesian workers still imprisoned in Saudi Arabia. The Indonesian Migrant Workers Protection Task Force has according to a report published in the Jakarta Post supported 67 Indonesians facing the death penalty in Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, China and Iran to be released and returned to Indonesia.

27/06/2012 *Arab News, Asia and Japan Watch*

<http://www.arabnews.com/indonesian-mission-working-toward-solving-32-maids-cases>

<http://ajw.asahi.com/article/asia/south-east-asia/AJ201206210011>

## **INDONESIA / AUSTRALIA**

### **Corby clemency backlash grows**

The decision to free Schapelle Corby, an Australian woman convicted of drug offences in 2005, has been challenged by Indonesia's Chief Justice Mahfud MD, who said "drug crime is worse than corruption and terrorism" adding that the president should take national security into consideration.

09/06/2012 *The Sydney Morning Herald, Radio Australia*

<http://www.smh.com.au/world/corby-clemency-backlash-grows-20120525-1z9fb.html>

<http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/international/2012-05-24/backlash-fears-for-corby-parole-bid/949762>

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## **JAPAN**

### **Ogawa has no qualms about executions**

The three executions that Justice Minister Toshio Ogawa approved on 29 March ended a 20 month period in which no death row inmates were hanged in Japan. He stated "it is the people who decide what type of penalty should be meted out for each crime" and "issuing an execution order is the duty of a justice minister."

Ogawa also said, "just because debate is taking place doesn't necessarily mean that I would not fulfil my obligation to issue execution orders". A record high of over 130 prisoners are reportedly under sentence of death in Japan.

Several former Ministers of Justice have taken a different view on the death penalty including former Justice Minister Satsuki Eda and Hideo Hiraoka – both have expressed reservations about the death penalty.

06/04/2012 *Japan Times, Daily Yomiuri*

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/text/nn20120406b5.html>

<http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T120329006455.htm>

### **Ex-Justice Minister voices regret over resumption of executions**

On 18 April, at Waseda University, Tokyo, former Justice Minister Hideo Hiraoka told a symposium hosted by a delegation of the EU to Japan and the EU Institute in Japan that it is regrettable that executions resumed in March without sufficient debate following a 20-month hiatus of no executions. A study panel on death penalty was also discontinued by current Justice Minister Ogawa, on the grounds that the main argument on the pros and cons of the death penalty had been identified.

19/04/2012 *Japan Times, Mainichi*

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/text/nn20120424f3.html#.T-G1cReJeaY>

<http://mainichi.jp/english/english/newsselect/news/20120419p2g00m0dm015000c.html>

### **Japan court rejects retrial over 1961 killing**

On 25 May the Nagoya High Court rejected an appeal made by Masaru Okunishi, aged 86, who has spent 40 years on death row for alleged murder. Okunishi is one of Japan's longest serving death row inmates despite repeated attempts by his lawyers to get a retrial. Okunishi has spent much of the past four decades in solitary confinement and has consistently protested his innocence after retracting what he claims was a forced confession.

25/05/2012 *Times of India, Daily Yomiuri*

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/rest-of-world/Japan-court-rejects-retrial-over-1961-killings/articleshow/13468091.cms>

<http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T120525005099.htm>

## **Japan's 'lay judge' system to be revised**

The Japan Times reports that the Justice Ministry will decide on possible changes to the Japanese Lay Judge system after hearing from an 11-member panel consisting of lawyers, citizen's groups representatives and media organisations. The Japanese Lay Judge system was reintroduced in 2009; six lay judges work with judges to decide on the verdict and sentencing of cases which includes the death penalty. Not long after the system was reintroduced lay judges were reportedly accused of being too heavy handed in passing down sentences.

*24/05/2012 Japan Times, Asian Correspondent*

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/text/nn20120524f3.html>

<http://asiancorrespondent.com/83631/japans-lay-judge-system-to-be-revised/>

## **New justice minister takes middle road on death penalty, urges more taping of grillings**

On 4 June, newly appointed Justice Minister Makoto Taki said that he will judge each death penalty case on a case-by-case basis, but added that prosecutors should videotape more of the interrogations they carry out.

*05/06/2012 Japan Times*

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/text/nn20120605b3.html>

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## **MALAYSIA**

### **VP Binay: PHL to help Pinay facing execution in Malaysia for drug smuggling**

On 29 May, Vice-President Jejomar Binay stated that he has instructed Philippine Ambassador to Malaysia Ed Malaya to "extend all assistance" to Eliza San Gabriel, who was found guilty of drug offences after her defence failed to raise reasonable doubt against the prosecutions case.

*29/05/2012 GMA Network, Ugnayan*

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/259827/pinoyabroad/news/vp-binay-phl-to-help-pinay-facing-execution-in-malaysia-for-drug-smuggling>

<http://www.ugnayan.com/ph/gov/OVP/article/1YKO>

## **MALAYSIA / INDIA / NIGERIA / PHILIPPINES**

### **Baskar Venkatasamy, James Kamara, Eliza San Gabriel**

In Malaysia, several recent cases have seen foreign nationals sentenced to death based on a reversed burden of proof. Judges in all three cases, that of Indian Baskar Venkatasamy, Nigerian James Kamara and Pinay Eliza San Gabriel, stated that the defence had failed to raise any reasonable doubts in the prosecutions case.

<http://nst.com.my/latest/indian-national-gets-the-gallows-for-trafficking-1.89658>

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2012/5/14/nation/20120514110637&sec=nation>

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2012/5/28/nation/20120528173219&sec=nation>

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## **MALDIVES**

### **Family of Ahusan Basheer approve potential death sentence for two minors accused of murder**

On 21 May, the family of Ahusan Basheer, who was stabbed to death in March, raised no objections to the two minors charged with the murder being given the death sentence if found guilty. According to the Maldives Penal Code, a person can only be sentenced to death with the consent of all the heirs of the victim.

21/05/2012 *MinivanNews, Haveeru*

<http://minivannews.com/society/family-of-ahusan-basheer-approve-potential-death-penalty-sentence-for-two-minors-accused-of-murder-37716>

<http://direct.haveeru.com.mv/news/42137>

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## **MYANMAR**

### **Phyo Wai Aung receives death sentence**

On 7 May, Phyo Wai Aung, an engineer, was sentenced to death by a special closed court, for his alleged involvement in the bombings at the Thingyan water festival in Rangoon in 2010. His lawyer, Kyaw How, stated “We are disappointed as the court sentenced him because of evidence submitted by the authorities which they received through torture”.

In a report issued on 6 May by the Asian Human Rights Commission, it was noted that Phyo Wai Aung has been tortured, illegally detained, and forced to confess.

08/05/2012 *Al Jazeera, Irrawaddy*

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2012/05/2012511115419116373.html>

<http://www.irrawaddy.org/archives/3780>

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### **Three men given death sentence for murder that sparked riot**

On 18 June, three Muslim men accused of murdering Thida Htwe, were sentenced to death by the District Court in Kyaukphya. Htwe’s death is thought to have unleashed long-simmering religious and ethnic tensions in the area, which culminated in the country’s worst sectarian riots in decades, leaving at least 50 people dead, thousands of homes destroyed and more than 32,000 people displaced.

18/06/2012 *CNN, Democratic Voice of Burma*

<http://edition.cnn.com/2012/06/19/world/asia/myanmar-rakhine-death-sentence/index.html>

<http://dvb.no/news/three-men-given-death-sentence-for-murder-that-sparked-riots/22512>

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## **NORTH KOREA**

### **North Korea executes three people found guilty of cannibalism**

A study by the Korean Institute for National Unification tells of cases where people were executed after being found guilty of cannibalism. Pyongyang has been accused of using limited food supplies as a weapon to engender fear amongst its own people, and of failing to pass on food aid that it receives from international aid agencies.

11/02/2012 *The Telegraph, The Global Post*

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/northkorea/9259043/North-Korea-executes-three-people-found-guilty-of-cannibalism.html>

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/regions/asia-pacific/120518/north-korea-executes-3-cannibalism-report-claims>

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## PAKISTAN

### **Extradition pacts with Europe stalled by death penalty**

On 22 April, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and the foreign ministry revealed that an extradition treaty between Pakistan and the UK “remains ambivalent” because the joint judicial team assigned to finalise the accord differed over the likelihood of the ‘death sentence’. The death penalty is the main hurdle in concluding extradition treaties between Pakistan and several other European countries, said Pakistan’s foreign office legal director Sher Bahadur Khan.

21/05/2012 *The Express Tribune*

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/381861/extradition-pacts-with-europe-stalled-by-death-penalty/>

### **ADPAN Joint Open Letter signed by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan and Amnesty International to halt the execution of Behram Khan**

On 28 May ADPAN called on President Asif Ali Zardari to halt the execution of Behram Khan and to establish a moratorium on executions. It noted that this execution would end a four year stay on executions in Pakistan. The statement reiterated concerns that the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997 restricted public access to courts, and put judges under extreme pressure to convict.

28/05/2012 ADPAN

<http://adpan.net/2012/05/28/pakistan-open-letter-urgent-request-to-halt-the-execution-of-behram-khan>

## PAKISTAN / INDIA

### **Pardon granted to Surjeet Singh, not Sarabjit Singh: Farhatullah**

On 26 June, the clemency of Sarabjit Singh, converting his death sentence to life imprisonment, was announced across the globe. Sarabjit was sentenced to death for alleged acts of terrorism in 1991. But later the same day Presidential spokesperson Farhatullah announced that not only was this not a case of pardon, it was not Sarabjit Singh who was to be released, but Surjeet Singh, another man, whose death sentence had been commuted in 1989 and who has now served out his sentence. Surjeet and Sarabjit are held in the same prison.

27/06/2012 *The Hindu, Business Recorder*

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/article3573345.ece>

<http://www.brecorder.com/top-news/1-front-top-news/64455-pardon-granted-to-surjeet-singh-not-sarabjit-singh-farhatullah.html>

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## SINGAPORE / USA

### **Singapore’s death penalty practice raised at UN Consultation**

On 25-26 June, the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions and the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel inhuman or degrading treatment organised a two-day consultation on the death penalty at Harvard University, USA. Singaporean lawyer and ADPAN member Mr M Ravi was invited to give his views on the death penalty in Singapore. The consultation included the application of the death penalty for “the most serious crimes, and the death penalty and torture and concerns around the case of Yong Vui Kong, a Malaysian under sentence of death in Singapore for drug offences.

29/06/2012 *Public House*

<http://publichouse.sg/categories/topstory/item/656-spores-death-penalty-raised-at-un-consultation>

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## TAIWAN

### President vows to work toward ending death penalty

On 20 April President Ma Ying-Jeou said his administration would reduce the use of the death penalty as part of efforts to protect human rights, and promised to seek public consensus on the issue to move toward the abolition of the death penalty.

21/04/2012 Taipei Times

<http://www.taipetimes.com/news/taiwan/archives/2012/04/21/2003530891>

### Report exposes holes in Taiwan's Human Rights Record

On 20 April, President Ma Ying-jeou released Taiwan's first government report, the Taiwan State Human Rights Report, around the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights (ICESCR), ratified in 2009. Following the release of this report, the Taiwan Association for Human Rights and Covenants Watch released their own report - 'Taiwan Human Rights Report 2011: Shadow Reports on the ICCPR and ICESCR' on 22 May. This shadow report highlights several shortcomings in the official state report, and urged the government to respect the UN 'Safeguards Guaranteeing Protection of the Rights of those Facing the Death Penalty', including provisions for clear and complete procedures for appealing for clemency, and prohibiting the execution of the mentally ill.

For the report – currently only available in Chinese - <http://ppt.cc/@A!G>

24/05/2012 IPS News, Covenants-watch

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/05/report-exposes-holes-in-taiwans-human-rights-record/>

<http://covenants-watch.blogspot.co.uk/2012/05/press-statement-civil-society-reports.html>

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## VIETNAM

### Vietnamese student given death penalty for drug smuggling

On 20 June, The Supreme Peoples Court in Ho Chi Min City increased 23 year old Tran Ha Duy's sentence from life in prison to the death penalty, arguing that life imprisonment was not a sufficient deterrent against drug offences.

20/06/2012 Thanhnien News, Vietnam Net

<http://www.thanhniennews.com/index/pages/20120620-vietnamese-students-sentenced-to-death-for-drug-smuggling.aspx>

<http://english.vietnamnet.vn/en/society/23953/young-woman-sentenced-to-death-for-drug-trafficking.html>

### Lethal drug shortage offers Viet Nam death row prisoners reprieve

On 22 May, Vietnam's Deputy Police Minister Dang Van Hieu stated "In the past year, the executions of more than 400 inmates have not been able to go ahead. He said that Vietnam is still waiting for imports of the European-made Pentobarbital, sale of which was banned by the EU in opposition of the death penalty.

28/05/2012, Asia Daily Wire

<http://www.asiadailywire.com/2012/05/lethal-drug-shortages-saves-vietnam-death-row-for-the-weekend/>

## **VIETNAM / THAILAND**

### **Thai girl gets death penalty for drugs in Vietnam**

On 26 June, a court in Ho shi min sentenced 23 year old college student Preeyanooch Phuttharaksa to death for allegedly being part of a methamphetamine ring, smuggling the drug between West Africa and Vietnam.

*26/06/2012 Tuoitrenews, Edmonton Journal*

<http://www.tuoitrenews.vn/cmmlink/tuoitrenews/society/thai-girl-in-vietnam-gets-death-penalty-for-drugs-1.77648>

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/news/Vietnam+hands+death+sentence+Thai+drug+trafficker/6841300/story.html>

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## **SOUTH KOREA / CHINA**

### **Korean-Chinese man gets death penalty for Suwon murder – appeals**

On 15 June, a South Korean Court sentenced Wu Yuanchun to death for murder. His appeal was submitted on 19 June to the Suwon District Court. The case sparked public anger in South Korea, as police officers were found to have faulted in their initial response to the victims' emergency call.

*16/06/2012 Tengri News, Korea Herald*

<http://en.tengrinews.kz/crime/10795>

<http://view.koreaherald.com/kh/view.php?ud=20120619000504&cpv=0>

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## WORLD AND REGIONAL NEWS

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### **World Coalition against the Death Penalty General Assembly 16-17 June – Amman**

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The Tenth General Assembly (GA), held in Jordan 16-17 June, saw activists from 132 organisations across the world come together to discuss work to abolish the death penalty. The first day of the GA, restricted to members of the coalition, focused on administrative and strategic issues. The second day was open to the public and attended by members of the coalition as well as local civil society and media organisations. Participants took part in workshops and discussions on issues such as religion and the death penalty, and working with murder victims.

Strategies were also discussed and developed on the adoption of the UN GA moratorium resolution, steps toward an Optional Protocol to the African Charter on Human Rights on abolition of the death penalty, and the SAFE California Campaign and recent abolition in Connecticut.

*16-17 June 2012*

<http://www.penalreform.org/news/pri-hosts-tenth-general-assembly-world-coalition-against-death-penalty-jordan>  
<http://www.worldcoalition.org/>

### **Harm Reduction International (HRI) - Partners in Crime: International Funding for Drug control and Gross Violations of Human Rights**

On 21 June, Harm Reduction International (HRI) launched a new report *Partners in Crime: International Funding for Drug control and Gross Violations of Human Rights* – in time for the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, 26 June.

From Asia, the report focuses on the following countries: *China, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Myanmar, Australia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei* and *Laos*. It also raises concerns about unfair trials and ill-treatment in detention across the region.

<http://www.ihra.net/contents/1215>.