

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 20/01/97

20 January 1997

Further information on UA 39/96 (ASA 20/06/96, 16 February 1996) and follow-ups (ASA 20/14/96, 25 March; ASA 20/20/96, 16 May; 20/40/96, 30 August; ASA 20/43/96, 13 September; ASA 20/45/96, 27 September; ASA 20/48/96, 5 November; ASA 20/54/96, 13 December; ASA 20/56/96, 17 December) - Death Penalty

INDIAGantela Vijayavardhana Rao, aged 25
Satuluri Chalapathi Rao, aged 24

On 20 January 1997 the Supreme Court disposed of the petition seeking commutation of the death sentences given to Gantela Vijayavardhana Rao and Satuluri Chalapathi Rao.

Justice Anand and Justice Majmudar extended the stay on the execution of the two men for a further four weeks, pending the decision of the President of India, who has the power to commute a sentence of death under Article 72(1)(c) of the Constitution of India. The President has yet to take a decision on the mercy petitions filed in September 1996.

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

- urging that the death sentences on Gantela Vijayavardhana Rao and Satuluri Chalapathi Rao not be carried out and that their sentences be commuted within the four week time limit set by the Supreme Court of India;
- expressing concern that the trial of the two youths was not in conformity with the standards set by the Indian courts, or by international human rights law;
- 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 as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- pointing out that the death penalty has never been shown to have a unique deterrent effect.

APPEALS TO:

President Shankar Dayal Sharma
Office of the President
Rashtrapati Bhavan
New Delhi 110 004
India

Telegrams: President of India, New Delhi, India

Faxes: +91 11 301 7290

Salutation: Dear President

COPIES TO:

Mr Indrajit Gupta
Minister of Home Affairs
Ministry of Home Affairs
North Block
New Delhi 110 001
India

Faxes: + 91 11 301 5750

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Mr Krishna Kanth
Governor of Andhra Pradesh
Office of the Governor
Hyderabad
Andhra Pradesh
India

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 10 March 1997.