

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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EXTRA 08/92 Death Penalty

30 January 1992

MALAYSIA: Tan Cheong Hock

The Supreme Court, sitting in Kuala Lumpur, has upheld the death sentence imposed on Tan Cheong Hock, who was sentenced to death for unlawful possession of firearms and ammunition under Section 57 of the Internal Security Act.

Tan Choeng Hock, aged 29, had been sentenced to death by the Kuantan High Court on 17 November 1989. He had been found guilty on two counts of unlawful possession of a Colt 32 pistol and two Colt bullets. Both offences were committed in Jalan Mahkota, Kuantan on 30 March 1985.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The death penalty is mandatory for some firearms offences, kidnapping and murder. 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 or punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

All death sentences in Malaysia are automatically reviewed by a Pardons Board. To Amnesty International's knowledge, however, there have only been two occasions when a Pardons Board has commuted a death sentence.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern that Tan Cheong Hock has been sentenced to death, and that the Supreme Court has upheld these decisions;
- stating Amnesty International's unconditional opposition to the death penalty;
- urging that all death sentences including that of Tan Cheong Hock be commuted and that no more death sentences be imposed.

APPEALS TO:

Head of State for Pahang:
DYMM Sultan Haji Amad Shah
Istana
Pekan
Pahang Darul Makmur
MALAYSIA

Telegrams:
Telexes: 50267 SUKPHG MA
Salutation: Your Majesty

Prime Minister:
YAB Dato Seri Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad

Prime Minister's Office
Jalan Dato' Onn
50502 Kuala Lumpur
MALAYSIA

Telegrams: Prime Minister Mahathir

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Telexes: 30098 EPUPM MA; 30091 LARAS MA;
33099 PERMA MA

Faxes: + 60 3 238 3784; + 60 2 238 7214;
+ 60 3 238 7215

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

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COPIES TO:

Minister of Justice:

YB Datuk Syed Hamid bin Syed Jaafar Albar
Ministry of Justice
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50506 Kuala Lumpur
MALAYSIA

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Attorney General:

Tan Sri Abu Talib bin Othman
Attorney General's Office
20th Floor, Bangunan Bank Laut
50350 Kuala Lumpur
MALAYSIA

and to diplomatic representatives of Malaysia in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 12 March 1992.