

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Death Penalty

23 February 1994

SINGAPORE: CHIN Seow Noi, aged 33 (f)
CHIN Yau Kim, aged 31
NG Kim Heng, aged 30

Amnesty International has only just learnt that Chin Seow Noi, her brother Chin Yau Kim and Ng Kim Heng were sentenced to death in October 1992 for the murder of a woman committed in January 1989.

Their appeal to the Court of Criminal Appeal was rejected in May 1993 and the grounds for this decision were published in December 1993:

The Court of Criminal Appeal ruled that Section 30 of the Evidence Act should be given a wider interpretation. A person can now be convicted solely on the confession of a co-accused, even if there is no other independent evidence against the accused.

A final appeal will now be made to the President who can confirm or reverse the death sentences.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in English or in your own language:

- expressing concern at the imposition of the death sentence on Chin Seow Noi, Chin Yau Kim and Ng Kim Heng and urging the President of Singapore to commute these death sentences;

- stating Amnesty International's unconditional opposition to the death penalty, and urging that all existing death sentences be commuted and that no more be imposed in the future.

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

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
Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Minister of Law
Professor Shanmugham Jayakumar
Ministry of Law
250 North Bridge Road
Raffles City Tower 21-00
Republic of Singapore 0617
Telex: 34374
Salutation: Dear Minister

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 6 April 1994.