

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 36/003/2003

22 September 2003

Further information on EXTRA 43/03 (ASA 36/002/2003, 18 September 2003) - Imminent execution/Unfair trial

SINGAPORE

	Vignes s/o Mourthi (m) aged 23, Malaysian national
New name:	Moorthy A/L Angappan (m), Malaysian national

Vignes s/o Mourthi has had his execution scheduled for 6am local time on 26 September. Amnesty International has learned that another man, Moorthy A/L Angappan, convicted in connection with Vignes s/o Mourthi's case, also faces execution at the same time.

Vignes s/o Mourthi was convicted of drug trafficking and sentenced to death in August 2002. Amnesty International is concerned about a number of alleged irregularities during the trial proceedings.

Vignes s/o Mourthi's lawyer believes there is a strong possibility that his client is innocent. His motion for a retrial was dismissed by the High Court on 19 September, following the rejection of an earlier motion which was lodged on 12 September. His appeal for clemency to the President of Singapore had already been rejected. In a breach of international legal protocol, he has not been granted a stay of execution, even though his lawyer has expressed his intention to appeal.

Moorthy A/L Angappan was convicted of drug trafficking in connection with the same case and was also sentenced to death in August 2002. Amnesty International currently has no further details about his case.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language:

- urging the authorities not to carry out the executions of Vignes s/o Mourthi and Moorthy A/L Angappan, both scheduled for 6am on 26 September;
- calling on the authorities to establish an immediate moratorium on executions, with a view to abolition, in line with recommendations by the United Nations Commission for Human Rights;
- noting that serious concerns have been expressed about the fairness of Vignes s/o Mourthi's trial and urging that he be allowed adequate time and facilities to prepare and present this and any subsequent appeal;
- noting that an execution cannot be carried out while any appeal or other recourse procedure or other procedure relating to pardon or commutation of the sentence is pending.

APPEALS TO:

Minister of Law

Prof. S. Jayakumar

Ministry of Law

100 High Street

The Treasury #08-02

Singapore 179434

Telegram: Minister of Law, Singapore

Fax: + 65 6332 8842

Salutation: Dear Minister

Attorney General

Chan Sek Keong
Attorney General's Chambers
1 Coleman Street #10-00
Singapore 179803
Telegram: Attorney General, Singapore
Fax: + 65 6332 5984
Salutation: Dear Attorney General

Chief Justice
Yong Pung How
Supreme Court
Supreme Court Building
St Andrew's Road
Singapore 178957
Telegram: Chief Justice, Singapore
Salutation: Dear Chief Justice

COPIES TO: Diplomatic representatives of Singapore accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.