

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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**15 March 1995**

**Further information on EXTRA 29/95 (ASA 36/04/95, 10 March 1995) - Death penalty**

**SINGAPOREFlor Contemplacion (female), aged 42, domestic worker**

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Amnesty International has learned that a witness has come forward with new evidence which may prove that Flor Contemplacion, scheduled to hang on 17 March 1995, is innocent of the murder of a fellow Filipino maid - Delia Maga - and her employer's four-year-old son. The Contemplacion family's new lawyer, who is a leading Filipino human rights advocate, arrived recently in Singapore in order to present the new evidence and to call for a re-trial.

Amnesty International had already expressed doubts about the fairness of the trial, which took place in January 1993, as neither the prosecution nor the appointed defence counsel made any submissions during the hearing. Flor Contemplacion's cell-mate is also reported to have claimed that Flor was forcibly drugged prior to appearing in court, which may explain why she remained silent throughout her trial.

The new witness is another Filipino domestic worker who returned to the Philippines from Singapore after the two deaths. She claims that the young boy drowned accidentally in the bath during an epileptic fit and that the father killed Delia Maga in a fit of anguish, but blamed the murder on Flor Contemplacion, who was also in the house at the time.

While Amnesty International is unable to comment on the substance of the claims of innocence, it strongly supports the call for, at the very least, a clemency hearing for the new evidence to be considered.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send faxes and telegrams in English or in your own language:**

- urging the President to grant an immediate stay of execution to Flor Contemplacion so that her case may be thoroughly reviewed in light of doubts concerning her guilt;
- expressing Amnesty International's opposition to the death penalty as the ultimate form of cruel punishment and a violation of the most basic of human rights - the right to life.

**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**

**Faxes: +65 738 4673**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

The Prime Minister

The Honourable Goh Chok Tong

Office of the Prime Minister  
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Republic of Singapore 0923  
**Faxes: +65 732 4627**

Minister of Law  
Professor Shanmugham Jayakumar  
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250 North Bridge Road  
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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