

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 256/94 Death Penalty

4 July 1994

SINGAPORE

Jasbir SINGH, aged 30
Charanjit SINGH, age not known

On 14 February 1994 the Court of Criminal Appeal rejected the appeal of Jasbir Singh and Charanjit Singh against their sentence of death for trafficking in 254.36 grams of diamorphine.

Jasbir and Charanjit were arrested on 24 May 1988 on charges of drug trafficking. Jasbir had been staying at the flat of an acquaintance who was away on holiday. There he found a bag of powder and was arrested while trying to determine the nature of this powder. Jasbir had asked his friend Charanjit to accompany him. Both were tried and sentenced to death on 5 January 1993.

They will now file an appeal for clemency with the President of Singapore, Ong Teng Cheong.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The death penalty was employed during the colonial period and was retained after Singapore became an independent republic in August 1965. Anyone found in possession of more than 15 grams of heroin, 30 grams of morphine, 30 grams of cocaine or 500 grams of cannabis is presumed guilty of drug trafficking and is liable to a mandatory death sentence.

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 Jasbir Singh and Charanjit Singh;
- stating Amnesty International's unconditional opposition to the death penalty.

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 The Prime Minister
Istana Annexe
Orchard Road
Republic of Singapore 0923
Telegrams: Prime Minister Chok Tong, Singapore
Faxes: +65 732 4627
Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Minister for Law
Professor Shanmugham Jayakumar
Ministry of Law
250 North Bridge Road
Raffles City Tower 21-00
Republic of Singapore 0617
Minister Shanmugham Jayakumar, Singapore
Telexes: 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 15 August 1994.