

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 38/02/96

16 January 1996

Further information on EXTRA 01/96 (ASA 38/01/96, 8 January 1996) - Death penalty / Legal concern

TAIWAN (REPUBLIC OF CHINA) Liu Chi-hsun, aged 29

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On 15 January 1996, Minister of Justice Ma Ying-jeou ordered a review of the case of Liu Chi-hsun. He is reported to have referred the case back to Taiwan's Prosecutor General on the grounds that some important points had not been not raised at the original trial.

Liu Chi-hsun, a county council member from Yunlin district in central Taiwan, was facing imminent execution after his death sentence for murder was confirmed by Supreme Court, apparently in December 1995. He claims that he is innocent and that he and co-defendants were tortured during police interrogation.

Amnesty International welcomes the decision of the Minister of Justice to refer the case back to the Prosecutor General. It calls on the Minister to ensure that there is an independent investigation into all aspects of the case, that its results are made public, and that any official found to be responsible for torture or ill-treatment is brought to justice. It urges the Minister to ensure that Liu Chi-hsun's trial is reopened if his allegations of ill-treatment and unfair trial are substantiated.

Amnesty International continues to urge President Lee Teng-hui to use his constitutional power to commute the death sentence imposed on Liu Chi-hsun. On 12 January Amnesty International's Secretary General wrote to President Lee Teng-hui expressing deep concern about the case.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in English, your own language or Chinese:**

- welcoming the decision of the Minister of Justice to return the case of Liu Chi-hsun to the Prosecutor General for reinvestigation;
- urging the Minister of Justice to ensure that all aspects of the case are investigated, that the results of this investigation are made public and that any official found to be responsible for torture or ill-treatment is brought to justice;
- urging the Minister of Justice to ensure that Liu Chi-hsun's trial is reopened if his allegations of ill-treatment and unfair trial are substantiated;
- urging President Lee Teng-hui to exercise his constitutional power to commute the death sentence imposed on Liu Chi-hsun;
- expressing opposition to the death penalty in all cases and seeking its abolition in law.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) President Lee Teng-hui  
Office of the President  
Chiehshou Hall  
122 Chungking S. Road, Sec 1  
Taipei, Taiwan  
Republic of China

**Telegrams: President Lee Teng-hui, Taipei, Taiwan**

**Faxes: + 886 2 311 9574 or 314 0746 (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

**Salutation: Dear President Lee**

2) Ma Ying-jeou, Minister of Justice

Ministry of Justice

130 Chunching South Road, Sec 1

Taipei, Taiwan

Republic of China

**Telegrams: Minister Ma Ying-jeou, Taipei, Taiwan**

**Faxes: +886 2 381 1528 or 389 6759**

**Salutation: Dear Minister Ma**

**COPIES TO:**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

2 Chiehshou Road, Sec 2

Taipei, Taiwan

Republic of China

**Faxes: +886 2 311 9574 or 314 4972**

Taiwan Association for Human Rights

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Hsingsheng S Road

Taipei, Taiwan

Republic of China

Amnesty International, Taiwan Section

Room 406, Central Bldg No 2

Chung Shan North Road, 1st Sec

100 Taipei, Taiwan

Republic of China

and to official or unofficial representatives of Taiwan (Republic of China) in your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 20 February 1996.