

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: ASA 38/03/93  
Distr: UA/SC**

**EXTRA 30/93      Death Penalty**

**17 March 1993**

**TAIWAN (Republic of China): LIU Huan-jong, aged 36, former gang-member**

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Amnesty International is concerned that Liu Huan-jong, who was sentenced to death in 1992, may be executed later this month. The Justice Ministry has denied a request by his lawyer to present a new special appeal to the Supreme Court after it decided on 5 March 1992 to uphold Liu Huan-jong's death sentence.

According to his lawyer, Liu Huan-jong will live only if Taiwan's judicial authorities grant his request to have his sentence reviewed in view of his good behaviour in prison in the seven years since his arrest in 1986. Alternatively President Lee Teng-hui may commute his sentence.

Liu, who admitted to killing five people between 1984 and his arrest in 1986, has become a "model prisoner". "Liu Huan-jong was prepared to receive the death penalty when he was arrested [in 1986]. But in the seven years he spent in prison, he has become an entirely new man... Executing him now would constitute a blow to all the other prisoners: it would show that repentance does not lead anywhere", his lawyer told Amnesty International.

Liu was a member of an organized crime gang in Taiwan. He was found guilty of killing a bank manager and three gang members in Taiwan in 1984, and a Taiwanese man in the Philippines. He was arrested in Japan in 1986.

Liu Huan-jong, like all prisoners under a death sentence, has been wearing feet shackles permanently for several years. These shackles are not taken off, even during the outdoors exercise periods. This constitutes a major violation of international standards on the protection of the rights of prisoners, which specifically forbid the permanent use of instruments of restraint.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The death penalty is in force in Taiwan for a wide range of offences. At least 50 people were sentenced to death in 1991, but no accurate statistics are available for 1992. Executions are by shooting, although lethal injections may now be used.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases, on the grounds that it constitutes the ultimate form of torture and inhuman punishment and that it is a violation of the right to life. The Taiwan authorities have long argued that the death penalty is necessary because it is favoured by the people and constitutes a deterrent against crime. However, there is no evidence that the death penalty, in Taiwan or elsewhere, is a better deterrent than other forms of punishment.

Lee Teng-hui, the President of the Republic of China (Taiwan), has the constitutional right to commute death sentences, but he appears to do so very rarely.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters either in English, Chinese or in your own language:**

- urging the Judicial Yuan and the Ministry of Justice to reconsider Liu

Huan-jong's sentence;

- urging President Lee Teng-Hui to commute Liu Huan-jong's death sentence;
- expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty on the grounds that it constitutes the ultimate form of torture and inhuman punishment and that it is a violation of the right to life;
- calling on the authorities of the Republic of China to abolish the death penalty and to suspend all executions until abolition is effective in law.

**APPEALS TO**

1) President LEE Teng-hui  
President of the Republic of China  
Office of the President  
Chiehshou Hall  
Chungching South Road  
Taipei  
Taiwan  
Republic of China

**Telegrams:** President Lee Teng-hui, Taipei, Taiwan  
**Faxes:** + 886 2 314 0746; or 311 5877; or 331 1604  
**Telexes:** 11299 MOFAROC

**Salutation: Dear President Lee**

2) MA Ying-jeou  
Minister of Justice  
Ministry of Justice  
130 Chungching South Road Section 1  
Taipei  
Taiwan  
Republic of China

**Telegrams:** Minister MA Ying-jeou, Taipei, Taiwan  
**Faxes:** + 886 2 331 9102  
**Telexes:** 11299 MOFAROC

**Salutation: Dear Minister Ma**

3) LIN Yang-kang  
President of the Judicial Yuan  
124 Chungching South Road Sec. 1  
Taipei  
Taiwan  
Republic of China

**Telegrams:** President LIN Yang-kang, Taipei, Taiwan  
**Faxes:** + 886 2 361 4264  
**Telexes:** 11299 MOFAROC

**Salutation: Dear President Lin**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

Independence Morning Post  
15 Chinan Road

Taipei  
Taiwan  
Republic of China

News Editor  
Taiwan TV Enterprise  
10 Pa Teh Road Sec. 3  
Taipei  
Taiwan  
Republic of China

and to diplomatic representatives of Taiwan (or representative offices)  
accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 14 April 1993.