

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 38/04/95
Distr: UA/SC

25 May 1995

Further information on UA 76/95 (ASA 38/02/95, 23 March 1995) and follow-up (ASA 38/03/95, 20 April) - Death penalty / Legal concern / Fear of imminent execution

TAIWAN (REPUBLIC OF CHINA)

Su Chien-ho
Liu Ping-lang
Chuang Lin-hsiung

Taiwan's Prosecutor General has made three unsuccessful appeals on behalf of Su Chien-ho, Liu Ping-lang and Chuang Lin-hsiung in an attempt to prevent their execution. He now is reported to have decided not to lodge any further appeals.

Following this decision the Taiwan Association for Human Rights, lawyers from the Taiwan and Taipei Bar Associations and several legislators are planning to make their own appeal in an attempt to save three men who may have been convicted after unfair trial. They are asking the Minister of Justice to reconsider the three death sentences and they are appealing to President Lee Teng-hui to grant clemency.

Amnesty International is urging the authorities not to execute the three prisoners. The organization is very concerned at reports that their trials did not conform to international standards for fairness and that they may be innocent. Amnesty International also opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the ultimate form of cruel and inhuman treatment.

The three men were sentenced to death on charges of robbery, rape and murder. The courts reportedly convicted them largely on the basis of their own confessions which they claim were extracted after ill-treatment by police officers. Their families have reportedly filed a lawsuit against four police officers whom they accuse of ill-treating the prisoners.

The death penalty is in force in Taiwan for a wide range of offences. At least 15 prisoners were executed in 1994. President Lee Teng-hui has the constitutional right to commute death sentences but appears to do so rarely.

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

- urging President Lee Teng-hui to exercise his constitutional right to commute the death sentences imposed on Su Chien-ho, Liu Ping-lang and Chuang Lin-hsiung as a matter of urgency;
- urging the Minister of Justice to review their conviction following expressions of concern by human rights groups, lawyers and Taiwan's Prosecutor General that their trial did not conform to international standards for fairness;
- urging the Minister of Justice to order an immediate and impartial investigation into reports that they were ill-treated during police questioning;
- expressing opposition to the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the ultimate form of torture and inhuman punishment 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 Chungching 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 OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

1) Ministry of Foreign Affairs

2 Chiehshou Road, Sec 2
Taipei Taiwan
Republic of China
Faxes: +886 2 311 9574 or 314 4972

2) Taiwan Association for Human Rights

9F, No 3, Lane 25, Sec 3
Hsingsheng S Road
Taipei, Taiwan
Republic of China
Faxes: +886 2 363 6102

3) China News

10th Floor, 109-1, Tung Hsing Street
Taipei, Taiwan
Republic of China
Faxes: +886 2 768 6773

4) Supreme Court

6 Chang Sha St, Sec 1
Taipei, Taiwan
Republic of China
Faxes: +886 2 341 9054

and to diplomatic representatives of TAIWAN (REPUBLIC OF CHINA) accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International secretariat, or your section office if sending appeals after 12 July 1995.