

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 38/06/95

1 September 1995

Further information on UA 76/95 (ASA 38/02/95 of 23 March 1995) and follow-ups (ASA 38/03/95 of 20 April, ASA 38/04/95 of 25 May and ASA 35/05/95 of 8 June)
- Death penalty / legal concern / fear of imminent execution

TAIWAN (REPUBLIC OF CHINA) Su Chien-ho
 Liu Ping-lang
 Chuang Lin-hsiung

On 21 August 1995 a third special appeal on behalf of Su Chien-ho, Liu Ping-lang and Chuang Lin-hsiung was rejected by Taiwan's Supreme Court. Amnesty International is deeply concerned at reports that the three prisoners now face imminent execution. It has written to President Lee Teng-hui and Minister of Justice Ma Ying-jeou urging them to use their authority to prevent the executions.

In early August Shihlin District Prosecutor's office is reported to have decided not to charge the four police officers accused of torturing the three prisoners, citing a lack of evidence. Amnesty International continues to call for an independent investigation into reports that the three prisoners were tortured during interrogation and convicted largely on the basis of confessions extracted under torture.

The executions appear imminent, in spite of three special appeals by the Prosecutor General, Chen Han, and expressions of concern from lawyers, parliamentarians and non-governmental organizations in Taiwan, together with thousands of appeals from members of Amnesty International's Urgent Action Network. The latest, disappointing news is of deep concern to the organization which opposes the death penalty in all cases and is particularly concerned at reports that these three prisoners were tortured and denied a fair trial.

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

- urging President Lee Teng-hui to exercise his constitutional power to commute the death sentences imposed on Su Chien-ho, Liu Ping-lang and Chuang Lin-hsiung;
- urging the Minister of Justice to order an independent investigation into reports that the three prisoners were tortured during interrogation and that their confessions were extracted under torture;
- calling for the results of this investigation to be made public and any official found responsible for torture or ill-treatment to be brought to justice;
- expressing deep concern at the use of the death penalty in these cases, in view of widespread concern that the prisoners were tortured and tried unfairly;
- 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

9F, No 3, Lane 25, Sec 3

Hsingsheng S Road

Taipei, Taiwan

Republic of China

Faxes: +886 2 363 6102

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 23 October 1995.