

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 38/07/96

19 June 1996

Further information (4) on EXTRA 01/96 (ASA 38/01/96, 8 January 1996) and follow-up (ASA 38/02/96 of 16 January, ASA 38/03/96 of 19 March and ASA 38/05/96 of 23 April) - Death Penalty / Legal Concern / Medical Concern

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

On 18 June 1996, Taiwan's newly-appointed Minister of Justice is reported to have signed the order for Liu Chi-hsun's execution. He may now be executed at any time. Amnesty International urgently appeals to the Minister to withdraw his order and to President Lee Teng-hui to commute the death sentence.

Liu Chi-hsun, a county council member from Yunlin district in central Taiwan, was sentenced to death on charges of murder. However, he claims that he is innocent and was convicted on the basis of confessions extracted from himself and his co-defendants under torture.

Amnesty International believes that other prisoners in Taiwan have been sentenced to death on the basis of confessions extracted under torture. Three other men awaiting execution, Su Chien-ho, Liu Ping-lang and Chuang Lin-hsun, are believed to have been convicted unfairly after being tortured. These cases have received massive public support and called into question the use of evidence obtained during the interrogation of suspects.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the ultimate form of cruel and inhuman treatment.

In recent replies to letters from the Urgent Action network, a Ministry of Justice official said, *"We appreciate your concern about Mr Liu's case". He went on to say: "If no reason for retrial or extraordinary appeal is found to exist, the Ministry of Justice cannot but carry out the execution in accordance with the law"*. Nevertheless, Amnesty International believes that the Minister of Justice and the President have the authority and the responsibility to ensure that Liu Chi-hsun is not executed.

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

- urging President Lee Teng-hui to exercise his constitutional power to commute the death sentence imposed on Liu Chi-hsun;
- urging Minister of Justice Liao Chen-hao to withdraw the order to execute 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

Salutation: Dear President Lee

2) Liao Cheng-hao, Minister of Justice

Ministry of Justice

130 Chunching South Road, Sec 1

Taipei, Taiwan

Republic of China

Telegrams: Minister Liao Cheng-hao, Taipei, Taiwan

Faxes: +886 2 381 1528 or 389 6759

Salutation: Dear Minister Liao

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

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

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.