

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

**AI Index: ASA 41/04/95
Distr: UA/SC**

7 March 1995

Further information on UA 388/94 (ASA 41/10/94, 28 October 1994) and follow-up (ASA 41/01/95, 6 January 1995) - Death Penalty

SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM Nguyen Tung Duong, aged 37, police officer

Amnesty International has learned with deep regret that Nguyen Tung Duong was executed by firing squad on 5 March 1995.

Nguyen Tung Duong was sentenced to death for murder on 21 October 1994 after a three-day trial at the Peoples's Court of Ha Noi. His appeal to the Supreme Court in December 1994 was turned down and in 1995 President Le Duc Anh refused his appeal for clemency.

Nguyen Tung Duong was convicted for the murder and robbery in 1993 of a 21-year-old man who was carrying 50 million dong (approximately \$5,000) whom he had pulled over for a traffic violation. According to press reports the verdict was popular amongst the population of Ha Noi because he was a police officer. Thousands of people demonstrated in support of the death sentence during the appeal at the Supreme Court in December 1994. Upholding the sentence the Supreme Court said the murder damaged police credibility, "thus causing bad political and social consequences".

Nguyen Tung Duong is believed to be the first policeman to be executed in communist Viet Nam. Although Amnesty International is aware of many death sentences being passed in recent years, most of which are commuted to life imprisonment, this is the first confirmed instance of an execution being carried out since 1985.

Amnesty International is opposed to the death penalty in all cases on the grounds that it is a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams, express and airmail letters.

(Please send these appeals in your personal capacity only - please do not mention Amnesty International in your correspondence):

- expressing deep regret at the execution of Nguyen Tung Duong on 5 March 1995;
- urging the commutation of all remaining death sentences;
- urging that the death penalty be removed from the Code of Criminal Law.

APPEALS TO:

Le Duc Anh
President
35 Ngo Quyen
Ha Noi, Socialist Republic of Viet nam
Telegrams: President Le Duc Anh, Ha Noi, Viet Nam
Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES TO:

Nguyen Dihn Loc
Minister of Justice

Ministry of Justice
25 Cat Linh
Ha Noi, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

and to diplomatic representatives of SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM accredited
to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.