

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: ASA 41/05/95  
Distr: UA/SC**

**22 June 1995**

**Further information on UA 179/93 (ASA 41/04/93, 3 June 1993) - Death Penalty**

**SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM Wong Chi Shing, 34**

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Amnesty International has learned with deep regret of the execution of Wong Chi Shing by firing squad on 20 June 1995.

Wong Chi Shing, a Hong Kong resident with British nationality, was arrested on 11 March 1993 in Ho Chi Minh City after arriving by air from Bangkok, Thailand. On 28 May 1993 the People's Supreme Court in Ho Chi Minh City sentenced him to death for allegedly smuggling five kilograms of heroin. He is reported to be the first foreigner to be executed in Viet Nam for a drugs offence.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Manufacturing or trafficking in narcotic substances was made an optional capital offence "in particularly serious circumstances" in December 1992 under Article 96a of the Penal Code. Since then six death sentences, three of which have been carried out, have been officially reported. A further three people have been executed this year for other offences.

Amnesty International is concerned that the full number of death sentences imposed and executions carried out is much higher than is officially reported by the media in Viet Nam. The Vice President of the People's Supreme Court reportedly told a visiting foreign delegation in April that during 1994 death sentences were imposed in about 100 cases and that in 90 of these cases execution was carried out. Amnesty International is also concerned that the death penalty will be used increasingly in the future in an attempt by the authorities to crack down on crime.

#### **FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/express/airmail letters**

- expressing regret at the execution of Wong Chi Shing on 20 June;
- urging the commutation of all remaining death sentences;
- urging that the death penalty be removed from the Penal Code.

#### **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**

Bui Thien Ngo  
Minister of Interior  
Ministry of Interior  
1 Tran Binh Trong  
Ha Noi

Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

**Telegrams: Minister of Interior, Ha Noi, Viet Nam**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:** diplomatic representatives of SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM  
accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.**