

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 41/06/96

4 June 1996

Further information on UA 112/96 (ASA 41/04/96, 24 April 1996) - Death penalty and new concern: Torture

SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM Duong The Tung, aged 19

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Amnesty International fears that Duong The Tung is likely to be executed in the coming weeks, for the murder of a policeman. The organization has also received deeply disturbing information that Duong The Tung was tortured by police in an anteroom at the Ha Noi People's Court on 16 April 1996, while awaiting the verdict in his trial. Police armed with electric batons tortured Duong The Tung while the court considered the verdict on his case. Although in good health when he was removed from the courtroom, on his return Duong The Tung was clearly suffering from the physical effects of the electric shock torture.

Despite Duong The Tung's confession and pleas for clemency, the Chief Judge imposed the death penalty in order to avoid "indignation of the people and to preserve discipline and threaten the other criminals". Two thousand people reportedly watched and applauded the proceedings from the court grounds.

Defendants sentenced to death may appeal to the People's Supreme Court, which should make a decision on the case within two months. If the sentence is upheld, defendants must lodge a final appeal to the President for clemency within seven days.

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/express/airmail letters in English or French or in your own language:**

- expressing serious concern at the torture of Duong The Tung while awaiting the verdict in his trial, and calling for an impartial investigation, and for those responsible to be brought to justice;
- expressing concern for the safety of Duong The Tung in custody, and asking for assurances that his treatment in detention conform to international standards;
- urging that the death sentence against Duong The Tung be commuted;
- expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty, pointing out that it has never been shown to deter crime more effectively than other punishments, and is brutalizing to all involved in its application.

**APPEALS TO:**

His Excellency Pham Hung  
Chief Justice  
People's Supreme Court  
Ha Noi  
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam  
**Telegrams: Chief Justice, Ha Noi, Viet Nam**  
**Salutation: Dear Chief Justice**

His Excellency Le Thanh Dao  
Chief Procurator  
Supreme People's Organ of Control  
16 Tue Tinh Street  
Ha Noi  
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

**Telegrams: Chief Procurator, Ha Noi, Viet Nam**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

His Excellency Le Duc Anh  
President  
Office of the 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:** diplomatic representatives of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam  
accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat,  
or your section office, if sending appeals after 31 July 1996.