

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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UA 331/94 Death Penalty

9 September 1994

SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM Nguyen Si Tuan, 23 years old

The People's Court of Ha Noi has sentenced Nguyen Si Tuan to death for drug trafficking. He is a native of the northern province of Lai Chau in Viet Nam, and was arrested on 23 October 1993 in Ha Noi allegedly carrying 2.1 kg of heroin in his rucksack.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In Viet Nam, immediately after a death sentence takes legal effect, the court file is sent to the Chief Justice of the People's Supreme Court and a copy of the judgement is also sent to the Chief Procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control for review. Both must decide within two months whether or not to protest the sentence imposed. Within a period of seven days from the time of the death sentence, the convicted person may also submit an appeal for clemency to Viet Nam's President.

In the past, most death sentences have been commuted to jail terms including life imprisonment. The death penalty may be applied as a maximum sentence for around 30 serious criminal offenses including smuggling, treason, espionage, rebellion, murder, rape, defrauding socialist property, and bribery.

Amnesty International opposes 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.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/express and airmail letters either in English or in your own language:

- expressing concern that Nguyen Si Tuan has been sentenced to death;
- stating Amnesty International's unconditional opposition to the death penalty;
- urging that all death sentences, including that of Nguyen Si Tuan, be commuted and that no more death sentences be imposed.

APPEALS TO

Head of State

Le Duc Anh
President
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
35 Ngo Quyen St.
Ha Noi, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (SRV)
Telegrams: President Le Duc Anh, Ha Noi, Viet Nam
Salutation: Your Excellency

Supreme Court

Pham Hung
Chief Justice of the
Supreme People's Court

Ha Noi, SRV

Telegrams: Chief Justice, Supreme People's Court, Ha Noi, Viet Nam

Salutation: Dear Chief Justice

Supreme People's Organ of Control

Tran Guyet

Chief Procurator

Supreme People's Organ of Control

16 Tue Tinh St.

Ha Noi, SRV

Telegrams: Chief Procurator, Supreme People's Organ of Control, Ha Noi, SRV

Salutation: Dear Chief Procurator

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

The Ministry of Justice

Nguyen Dinh Loc

Minister of Justice

25A Cat Linh

Ha Noi, SRV

and to diplomatic representatives of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
accredited to your country.

and to diplomatic representatives of accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 20 October 1994.