

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 41/09/97

25 April 1997

Further information on UA 112/96 (ASA 41/04/96, 24 April 1996) and follow-up (ASA 41/06/96, 4 June 1996) - Death penalty / Torture

SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM Duong The Tung, 19

Amnesty International is deeply concerned to learn that Duong The Tung was executed by firing squad on 24 April 1997. His final appeal to the President for clemency had been turned down.

Duong The Tung was sentenced to death on 16 April 1996 by Ha Noi People's Court for murdering a policeman. While awaiting the verdict he was tortured in a court anteroom by police with electric batons. Although in good health when he was taken to the anteroom, when he returned to the court he was clearly suffering from the physical effects of electric shock torture.

It is not known how many people in Viet Nam have been executed so far this year, although at least 10 people have been sentenced to death.

UA Network participants may write letters to the government regretting the execution of Duong The Tung and drawing their attention to Resolution 1997/12 adopted by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on 3 April 1997 on the death penalty. This resolution notes that "abolition of the death penalty contributes to the enhancement of human dignity and to the progressive development of human rights" and, amongst other points, encourages states which retain the death penalty "to consider suspending executions, with a view to completely abolishing the death penalty".

LETTERS TO:

His Excellency Le Duc Anh
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Office of the President
35 Ngo Quyen
Ha Noi
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
Salutation: Your Excellency

Her Excellency Nguyen Thi Binh
Vice President
Office of the President
35 Ngo Quyen
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Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
Salutation: Your Excellency

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