

PUBLIC

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EXTRA 162/99

Fear of i

SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

Nguyen Thi Hiep [f], Canadian national

Amnesty International has received information that Nguyen Thi Hiep, a 43-year-old Canadian woman of Vietnamese origin, may be executed in the next few days.

Nguyen Thi Hiep was arrested in April 1996 on charges of smuggling heroin and sentenced to death in March 1997. The sentence was upheld by the Supreme People's Court in August 1997. Execution in Viet Nam is by firing squad, sometimes in public.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The death penalty in Viet Nam is an optional punishment for 44 offenses, including drug trafficking. According to official statistics, 57 people have been sentenced to death this year for drug offenses. Concerns about the use of the death penalty are heightened by the routine unfairness of trials in the country.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes in English, French, or your own language:

- expressing concern that Nguyen Thi Hiep faces imminent execution;
- urging the authorities to immediately commute the death sentence imposed on Nguyen Thi Hiep;
- urging the authorities to establish an immediate moratorium on all executions in accordance with United Nations recommendations on the death penalty.

APPEALS TO (please note that fax tones can be difficult to obtain and that it is better therefore to try during office hours local time + 7 GMT):

President

Tran Duc Luong

President

Office of the President

35 Ngo Quyen

Ha Noi

Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Telegrams:President, Ha Noi, Viet Nam

Faxes:+ 844 823 4137 (c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Salutation:Dear President

Minister of Interior

Le Minh Huong

Minister of Interior

Ministry of Interior

Tran Binh Trong

Ha Noi

Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

Telegrams:Interior Minister, Ha Noi, Viet Nam

Faxes:+ 844 826 0773 (If voice answers, ask for fax)

Salutation:Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

Minister of Justice
Nguyen Dinh Loc
Minister of Justice
Ministry of Justice
25 Cat Linh
Ha Noi
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

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

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.