

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 20/56/96

17 December 1996

Further information on UA 39/96 (ASA 20/06/96, 16 February 1996) and follow-ups (ASA 20/14/96, 25 March; ASA 20/20/96, 16 May; ASA 20/40/96, 30 August; ASA 20/43/96, 13 September; ASA 20/45/96, 27 September; ASA 20/48/96, 5 November, ASA 20/54/96, 13 December) - Death Penalty

INDIA Gantela Vijayavardhana Rao, aged 25
Satuluri Chalapathi Rao, aged 24

The Supreme Court of India has granted a last-minute stay of execution to Gantela Vijayavardhana Rao and Satuluri Chalapathi Rao pending the hearing of a recently filed appeal.

The Supreme Court, on 17 December, admitted the appeal seeking commutation of death on the basis that at no point when arrested, or committed for trial by the magistrate in Guntur, were the two accused offered legal aid or told of their rights.

The Supreme Court has set the date of 20 January 1997 for the hearing of the appeal.

Please continue to send appeals to the authorities listed in previous update.