

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 36/02/93

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This is a limited action. Please organize up to TEN appeals per section.

UA 66/93

Death Penalty

10 March 1993

MALAYSIA:

Ahmad Zaki Ibrahim

On 23 February 1993 the Supreme Court in Kuala Lumpur dismissed the appeal against the death sentence imposed on Ahmad Zaki Ibrahim by the High Court.

He had been convicted of drug trafficking under Section 39B of the Dangerous Drugs Act.

All death sentences in Malaysia are automatically reviewed by a Pardons Board which passes its recommendations to the *Yang di-Pertuan Agong*, King, who has the sole authority to grant pardon, suspend or commute the sentence. This is the last avenue of clemency and Amnesty International knows of only two occasions when a Pardon's Board has commuted a death sentence.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The death penalty was introduced as the maximum punishment for drug offences under a 1975 amendment to the Dangerous Drugs Act of 1952. In April 1983 the death penalty for drug trafficking became mandatory when the Malaysian Parliament further amended the Act and withdrew a judge's discretion to impose a life term. Trafficking is presumed if the accused is convicted of possessing more than 200 grams of cannabis, 15 grams of heroin or morphine or 1,000 grams of opium.

Amnesty International opposes the death sentence in all cases as violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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

- expressing concern that Ahmad Zaki Ibrahim has been sentenced to death and that he now faces execution as the Supreme Court has upheld this decision;

- stating Amnesty International's unconditional opposition to the death penalty;

- urging that all death sentences, including that of Ahmad Zaki Ibrahim, be commuted and that no more death sentences be imposed.

APPEALS TO:

1. King and Supreme Head of State:

DYMM Sultan Aslan Shah

Salutation: Your Majesty

Istana Negara

50500 Kuala Lumpur

MALAYSIA

Telegrams: His Majesty Sultan Aslan Shah, Istana, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Telexes: 30097 AGONG MA

Faxes: + 60 3 230 4426

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2. Prime Minister:

YAB Dato'Seri Dr Mahathir bin Mohammad

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Prime Minister's Office

Jalan Dato' Onn

50502 Kuala Lumpur

MALAYSIA

Telegrams: Prime Minister Mahathir, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Telexes: 33099 PERMA MA; 30091 LARAS MA;

30098 EPUPM MA (for the attention of Prime Minister Mahathir)

Faxes: + 60 2 293 4754

3. Minister of Justice:

Syed Hamid Syed Jaafar Albar

Salutation: Your Excellency

Bangunan Kuwasa

21st Floor

Jalan Raja Laut

50506 Kuala Lumpur

MALAYSIA

Telegrams: Justice Minister, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Telexes: 33548

Faxes: + 60 2 293 4754

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO: diplomatic representatives of Malaysia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 21 April 1994.