

EXTERNAL

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Death Penalty/Legal Concern

8 January 1996

TAIWAN (REPUBLIC OF CHINA)Liu Chi-hsun [m]

Liu Chi-hsun, a 29 year-old county council member from Yunlin district in central Taiwan, faces imminent execution. His death sentence on murder charges was confirmed by the Supreme Court, apparently in December 1995. Liu Chi-hsun claims that he is innocent and that he was framed as a result of political corruption. He also claims prosecutors used torture to extract from him and his co-defendants confessions implicating him in the crime.

Liu Chi-hsin has now exhausted all possible appeals. He has made an appeal to President Lee Teng-hui against his execution. Amnesty International is concerned that he is at imminent risk of execution, following a trial which may have been unfair. The organization is calling for an immediate stay of execution.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

According to his own appeal for clemency to President Lee Teng-hui and to his lawyer, Liu Chi-hsun appears to have been sentenced to death on almost no other evidence than statements made by him and codefendants during police interrogation. He appears to have been unable to present an adequate defence or to have all witnesses cross-examined. Liu Chi-hsun and his lawyer also allege that the murder charge (brought in 1993 and concerning a murder which allegedly took place over a year earlier) was politically motivated.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases and calls for the unconditional and immediate commutation of his death sentence. The organization is also concerned that Liu Chi-hsun's allegations that he was ill-treated and tried unfairly should be impartially investigated, and that his trial should be re-opened if there is an indication that his allegations are substantiated.

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

- urging President Lee Teng-hui to exercise his constitutional power to stay and commute the death sentences imposed on Liu Chi-hsun;
- urging the Minister of Justice to order an independent investigation into reports that Liu Chi-hsun was ill-treated and tried unfairly and for his trial to be re-opened if there is an indication that his allegations are substantiated;
- calling for the results of the investigation into torture allegations to be made public and for any official found responsible for torture or ill-treatment to be brought to justice;
- expressing opposition to the death penalty in all cases and seeking its abolition in law.

APPEALS TO:

1) President Lee Teng-hui

Office of the President
Chiehshou Hall
122 Chungking S. Road, Sec 1
Taipei, Taiwan
Republic of China

Telegrams: President Lee Teng-hui, Taipei, Taiwan

Faxes: + 886 2 311 9574 or 314 0746 (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Salutation: Dear President Lee

2) Ma Ying-jeou, Minister of Justice

Ministry of Justice
130 Chunching South Road, Sec 1
Taipei, Taiwan
Republic of China

Telegrams: Minister Ma Ying-jeou, Taipei, Taiwan

Faxes: +886 2 381 1528 or 389 6759

Salutation: Dear Minister Ma

COPIES TO:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

2 Chiehshou road, Sec 2

Taipei, Taiwan

Republic of China

Faxes: +886 2 311 9574 or 314 4972

Taiwan Association for Human Rights

9F, No 3, Lane 25, Sec 3

Hsingsheng S Road

Taipei, Taiwan

Republic of China

Amnesty International, Taiwan Section

Room 406, Central Bldg No 2

Chung Shan North Road, 1st Sec

100 Taipei, Taiwan

Republic of China

and to official or unofficial representatives of Taiwan (Republic of China) in your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 5 February 1996.