

URGENT ACTION

SRI LANKAN NATIONAL EXECUTED

Sri Lankan migrant worker Ravindra Krishna Pillai was executed by firing squad on 21 January in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). He had been convicted of murder after an unfair trial.

Migrant worker **Ravindra Krishna Pillai**, a Sri Lankan national, was executed by firing squad at 6am on 21 January in Sharjah Central Prison in the northern emirate of Sharjah. He had been transferred to a solitary confinement cell the previous day and told by prison guards that he should tell his family to attend and say goodbye.

Ravindra Krishna Pillai's sister and priest were not allowed to enter the prison to say goodbye and watch his execution. They were later allowed into the prison to see his body. His sister is trying to raise the necessary funds to have her brother's body flown back to Sri Lanka, where he wanted to be buried.

Ravindra Krishna Pillai had been convicted of murder after an unfair trial, during which he had no access to his government-appointed lawyer.

Since 1997, 13 people are known to have been executed in the UAE but dozens more death sentences have been passed. Executions are carried out by firing squad and death sentences must be upheld by the Supreme Court and endorsed by the country's President.

Amnesty International recognizes the rights and responsibilities of governments to bring to justice those convicted of criminal offences but the organisation is unconditionally opposed to the death penalty in all cases and all countries, without exception, regardless of the crime for which the person was condemned or the execution method the state uses. The death penalty violates the right to life and is the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment.

No further action is requested from the UA network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

This is the second update of UA: 2/14 Further information: www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE25/001/2014/en

Name: Ravindra Krishna Pillai

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 2/14 Index: MDE 25/006/2014 Issue date: 22 January 2014

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