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UA 28/95 **Executions / Fear of further executions** **2 February 1995**

INDONESIA Executed: Chan Ting Chong (alias Steven Chan), Malaysian national
Kacong Laranu, 62, retired Army Sergeant

At risk: Kamjai Khong Thavorn, Thai seaman
and other prisoners under finalised sentence of death

Fears for prisoners on death row in Indonesia have been greatly heightened by the news that two executions have taken place in the country since the beginning of 1995, including the first for drug-related offences. Until this point, there had been no executions in Indonesia since December 1992.

Kacong Laranu was executed on 31 January. He had been sentenced to death by Palu District Court, Central Sulawesi, in October 1986 for murder. In 1990, his appeal for presidential clemency was also rejected.

Chan Ting Chong was executed in Cibubur, east of Jakarta, on 13 January. He had been held in Jakarta's Cipinang prison since 1986, when he was sentenced to death by the District Court in West Jakarta for smuggling 420 grams of heroin. He is the first person to be executed in Indonesia for drug-related offences. The High Court and later the Supreme Court turned down his appeals in 1986 and 1990 respectively. An appeal for presidential clemency was rejected in 1991. He, like Kacong Laranu, was executed by firing squad.

Amnesty International fears that the two executions increase the risk of imminent execution of others on death row in Indonesia who have had their appeals for presidential clemency rejected -- the last legal obstacle to execution. One such prisoner is Kamjai Khong Thavorn, a Thai seaman.

Amnesty International is unreservedly opposed to the use of the death penalty, which it believes to be the ultimate form of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and a violation of the most fundamental right - the right to life.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Prisoners sentenced to death by civilian courts in Indonesia have the right to appeal first to the High Court and then to the Supreme Court. If the Supreme Court upholds the death penalty, their final legal remedy is to request presidential clemency. However, clemency is seldom granted and many prisoners refuse to request it for fear it will close the last legal avenue available to them and hasten their death.

The rationale for the use of the death penalty is that it will deter crime more effectively than other punishments. Amnesty International is concerned that, despite the hundreds of executions that have occurred all over the world, there is no compelling evidence that a decline in crime could be attributed to the use of the death penalty. It is frequently not those who have committed the most serious crimes who are executed, but those who have less skilled lawyers to defend them, or whose social status has made them vulnerable to unfair conviction.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express and airmail letters in English, Bahasa Indonesia or your own language:
- expressing deep regret at the recent executions of Chan Ting Chong and Kacong

Laranu on 13 and 31 January respectively;
- appealing to President Suharto to show clemency and to commute all death sentences that come before him;
- expressing opposition to the death penalty as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

APPEALS TO:

President
President Suharto
Istana Negara
Jl.Veteran
Jakarta Pusat
Indonesia
Telegrams: President Suharto, Indonesia
Salutation: Dear President Suharto

COPIES OF YOUR APPEAL TO:

Chairman, National Commission on Human Rights
Ali Said SH
Ketua, Komisi Nasional Hak Azasi Manusia
Jalan Veteran No.11
Jakarta
Indonesia
Faxes: +62 21 525 3095 (c/o Ministry of Justice)

Minister of Justice
Haiji Utoyo Usman S.H.
Menteri Kehakiman
Jl. H.R. Rasuna Said Kav, 6-7
Kuningan
Jakarta Selatan
Indonesia
Faxes: +62 21 525 3095

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia accredited to your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 20 March 1995.