

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: ASA 28/15/92**

**Distr: UA/SC**

**UA 387/92**

**Death Penalty**

**9 December 1992**

**MALAYSIA:**

**L Lingam**

---

On Tuesday 1 December 1992, the Supreme Court rejected an appeal against the death sentence imposed on L Lingam by the High Court in Kuala Lumpur on 26 March 1991. L Lingam was found guilty of trafficking in 30.03 gms of heroin in front of Tung Shin Hospital in Pudu on 10 October 1989.

All death sentences in Malaysia are automatically reviewed by a Pardons Board.

As L Lingam's case was originally heard by the High Court in Kuala Lumpur his case will now be reviewed by the Pardons Board for the Federal Territory.

The board will pass its recommendations to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong (King) who has the authority to grant pardon, suspend or commute the sentence. This is the last avenue of appeal for clemency. To Amnesty International's knowledge, there have been only two occasions when a Pardons Board has commuted a death sentence.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The death penalty is provided for under a variety of laws in Malaysia and is mandatory for certain drugs offences, murder and some firearms offences.

Amnesty International opposes the death sentence in all cases as a 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/airmail letters either in English or in your own language:**

- expressing concern that L Lingam has been sentenced to death and that the Supreme Court in Kuala Lumpur has upheld this decision;

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

- urging that the sentence be commuted and that no more death sentences be imposed in Malaysia.

#### **APPEALS TO**

1) King of Malaysia and Supreme Head of State:

DYMM Sultan Aslan Shah

Istana Negara

50500 Kuala Lumpur

MALAYSIA

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

**Telexes:** 31107 AGONG MA

**Faxes:** + 60 3 230 4426

**Salutation:** Your Majesty

Page 2 of UA 387/92

2) Prime Minister:

YAB Dato' Seri Dr Mahathir bin Mohamad

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 3 238 3784

**Salutation:** Dear Prime Minister

3) Minister of Justice:

Syed Hamid Syed Jaafar Albar

Banguan Kuwasa

21st Floor

Jalan Raja Laut

50506 Kuala Lumpur

MALAYSIA

**Telegrams:** Justice Minister, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

**Telexes:** 33548

**Faxes:** + 60 2 293 4754

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

**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 20 January 1993.