

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 36/005/2003

26 September 2003

Further information on EXTRA 43/03 (ASA 36/002/2003, 18 September 2003) - Imminent execution/Unfair trial

SINGAPORE

**Vignes s/o Mourthi (m) aged 23, Malaysian national
Moorthy A/L Angappan (m), Malaysian national**

Amnesty International was saddened to learn that Vignes s/o Mourthi and Moorthy A/L Angappan were hanged at 6am on 26 September at Changi Prison. Both men had been sentenced to death in August 2002 for drug trafficking.

Vignes s/o Mourthi's final appeal was dismissed on 25 September. In dismissing the appeal Chief Justice Yong Pung How reportedly told Vignes s/o Mourthi's lawyer, "You can say he is an innocent man but as far as the law is concerned, he has been found guilty and convicted. You better say goodbye to him, that's all you can do." His lawyer believes that there is a strong possibility that his client was innocent. Family members in the gallery wept as the verdict was announced. They had been instructed to pick up Vignes s/o Mourthi's body at 8am on 26 September.

Amnesty International has no further details about Moorthy A/L Angappan's case.

At least 370 executions are known to have been carried out since 1991. Recent information indicates that the real number of executions is higher. Singapore, with a population of just over four million, is believed to have one of the highest *per capita* execution rates in the world. Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong was quoted earlier this week as saying that ten people had been executed in Singapore so far this year, correcting his earlier statement that there may have been as many as 80 executions in the same period.

Many thanks to all those who sent appeals. No further action from the network is required.