

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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**EXTRA 46/95**

**Imminent Execution**

**27 April 1995**

**SINGAPORE**

**Jabar Kadermasthan  
Chandran A/L Gangatharan  
Kumar A/L Nadison**

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Amnesty International has just learned that Jabar Kadermasthan, Chandran A/L Gangatharan and Kumar A/L Nadison are scheduled to be hanged on 28 April 1995.

The three men, believed to be Malaysian nationals, were sentenced to death in May 1989 for the murder of a factory worker four years earlier. Their appeals against the sentences were rejected by the Court of Criminal Appeal in April 1991. Two previous execution dates were scheduled for June, then November 1994, but a last-minute stay of execution was granted on both occasions. Jabar Kadermasthan's lawyer has been fighting the case on the basis that it would be unconstitutional and unlawful to carry out the execution because of the length of time that has elapsed since conviction.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The death penalty was employed in Singapore during the colonial period and was retained after the country became an independent republic in August 1965.

At least 44 people are known to have been hanged since the beginning of 1994, the majority for drugs-related offences. However Amnesty International fears that the real figure may be much higher as many executions are not publicized.

The President has discretionary powers to commute death sentences, but clemency is rarely granted.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, as proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The organization is concerned that the death penalty is often imposed on those who have less skilled lawyers to defend them, or whose social status has made them vulnerable to unfair conviction. The risk of error in applying the death penalty is inescapable, yet the penalty is irrevocable.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send faxes in English or your own language:**

- urging the President to commute the death sentences passed on Jabar Kadermasthan, Chandran A/L Gangatharan and Kumar A/L Nadison;
- expressing Amnesty International's opposition to the death penalty as the ultimate form of cruel punishment and a violation of the most basic of human rights - the right to life;
- urging that all existing and pending death sentences be commuted.

**APPEALS TO:**

The President  
His Excellency Ong Teng Cheong  
Office of the President  
Istana, Orchard Road  
Republic of Singapore 0922  
**Faxes: +65 738 4673**  
**Salutation: Your Excellency**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

The Prime Minister

The Honourable Goh Chok Tong  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Istana Annexe, Istana  
Republic of Singapore 0923

**Faxes: +65 732 4627**

Minister of Law

Professor Shanmugham Jayakumar  
Ministry of Law  
250 North Bridge Road  
Raffles City Tower 21-00  
Republic of Singapore 0617

and to diplomatic representatives of Singapore accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.**