

PUBLIC

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Further information on EXTRA 144/99 (ASA 39/03/99, 13 October 1999) and follow-up (ASA 39/05/99, 24 November 1999, ASA 39/07/99, 16 December 1999) - Fear of imminent execution

KINGDOM OF THAILAND Up to 16 people on death row

Hla Win, a Myanmar national, was executed in Bang Khwaang Maximum Security Prison on 4 January 2000 for heroin trafficking. He had been in prison since 1993 and had exhausted all his appeals against the death sentence. His execution comes after 16 people were put to death in 1999, an unprecedentedly high number, contrary to United Nations recommendations.

Prison officials have reportedly said that there are now nine people on death row who have exhausted all appeals. Amnesty International is unable to confirm that this number is correct. All face imminent execution. There are believed to be more than 100 people sentenced to death who have still to complete the appeals procedure.

Ten more death sentences were imposed in December 1999. Three men were sentenced to death for murder, and seven for importing methamphetamine pills with intent to supply. All 10 men may now appeal against their death sentences to the Supreme Court.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or in your own language:

- welcoming the commutation of 30 death sentences to life imprisonment as part of the Royal Amnesty on the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej;
- condemning the execution of Hla Win on 4 January 2000, and the continuing imposition of the death penalty, with at least 10 people sentenced to death in December 1999;
- expressing concern that at least nine, and possibly as many as 16 people who have exhausted all their appeals face imminent execution;
- urging an immediate moratorium on all executions, commutation of all outstanding death sentences and the removal of the death penalty from all legislation, in line with international standards and recommendations from the United Nations Commission for Human Rights adopted in its most recent resolution in April 1999.

APPEALS TO:

Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai
Office of the Prime Minister
Government House
Pitsanuloke Road, Dusit
Bangkok 10300
Thailand

Telegrams: Prime Minister, Bangkok, Thailand

Faxes: + 66 2 280 1443

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Sanan Kachornprasart
Minister of Interior
Ministry of Interior

Thanon Atsadang
Bangkok 10200
Thailand
Telegrams:Interior Minister, Bangkok, Thailand
Faxes:+ 66 2 223 8851
Salutation:Dear Minister

COPIES TO:

The Editor
The Nation
44 Moo 10
Bangna-Trad Road, K.M. 4.5
Bangna
Phra Khanong
Bangkok 10260, Thailand
Faxes:+ 66 2 317 2071
E-mail:editor@nation.nationgroup.com

The Editor
Bangkok Post
136 Na Ranong Road
Off Sunthorn Kosa Road
Klong Toey
Bangkok 10110, Thailand
Faxes:+ 66 2 240 3666
E-mail:postbag@bangkokpost.net

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 17 February 2000.