

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 39/003/2001

12 April 2001

Further information on EXTRA 23/01 (ASA 39/001/2001, 2 April 2001) - Fear of imminent execution

KINGDOM OF THAILAND At least nine people (names unknown)
Executed: Somkid Namkaew

Somkid Namkaew was executed by firing squad on 11 April. His appeal for a Royal Pardon had been rejected. He had been sentenced to death for trafficking methamphetamines.

Somkid Namkaew is the first person to be executed since the Prime Minister said that three people convicted of drug offenses would be executed before the *Songkran* holiday (New Year Water Festival), which begins on 13 April.

The authorities have recently announced that they intend to speed up the execution of people sentenced to death for drug offenses, to act as a deterrent against the increasing production and trafficking of illegal drugs.

Amnesty International fears that the nine other people sentenced to death for drug trafficking are in danger of imminent execution.

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

- expressing regret and sadness at the execution of Somkid Namkaew on 11 April;
- expressing concern that at least nine more people sentenced to death for drug offenses face imminent execution;
- urging the authorities not to carry out further executions, and to impose an immediate moratorium on all executions;
- noting that serious crime is a problem in many countries, and that governments need to uphold the rule of law and punish offenders;
- pointing out that there is no evidence that the death penalty acts as a more effective deterrent than other punishments, and that it is brutalizing to all involved in its application;
- expressing concern that executions go against international standards and recommendations by the United Nations Commission for Human Rights on progressive limitation of the use of the death penalty.

APPEALS TO:

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Telegrams: Prime Minister, Bangkok, Thailand

Faxes: + 66 2 280 1443

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Purachai Piemsomboon
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Telegrams:Interior Minister, Bangkok, Thailand

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Salutation:Dear Minister

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and to diplomatic representatives of Thailand accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 14 May 2001.