

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

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**UA 179/93      Death Penalty**

**3 June 1993**

**SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM:      Wong Chi Shing**

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On 28 May 1993, the People's Supreme Court in Ho Chi Minh City imposed the death penalty on Wong Chi Shing for trying to smuggle in five kilograms of heroin. Smuggling is a crime under Article 97 of the Criminal Code of Viet Nam for which a death sentence can be imposed.

Wong Chi Shing, 32, a Hong Kong resident with a British passport, was arrested in Ho Chi Minh City on 11 March 1993 after flying in from Bangkok en route to Germany.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In Viet Nam, immediately after a death sentence, the court file is sent to the Chief Justice of the People's Supreme Court and a copy of the judgement is also sent to the Chief Procurator of the Supreme Peoples's Organ of Control for review, both of whom must decide within two months whether or not to protest the sentence imposed. A death sentence will be enforced if there is no protest from either official.

Within a period of seven days from the time of the death sentence, the convicted person may also submit an appeal for clemency to Viet Nam's President.

The death penalty is rarely enforced in Viet Nam. In the past, most death sentences have been commuted to jail terms including life imprisonment. The death penalty may be applied as a maximum sentence for around 30 grave criminal offences including serious cases of smuggling, treason, espionage, rebellion, murder, rape, defrauding socialist property, and bribery.

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 or punishment, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/express and airmail letters either in English or your own language:**

- expressing concern that Wong Chi Shing has been sentenced to death;
- stating Amnesty International's unconditional opposition to the death penalty;
- urging that all death sentences, including that of Wong Chi Shing, be commuted and that no more death sentences be imposed.

**APPEALS TO:**

1) His Excellency  
Le Duc Anh  
President  
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam  
35 Ngo Quyen St.  
Ha Noi  
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam  
**Telegrams: President Le Duc Anh, Ha Noi, Viet Nam**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

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2) His Excellency  
Pham Hung  
Chief Justice of the  
Supreme People's Court  
Ha Noi  
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam  
**Telegrams: Chief Justice, Supreme People's Court, Ha Noi, Viet Nam**

**Salutation: Dear Chief Justice**

3) His Excellency  
Tran Guyet  
Chief Procurator  
Supreme People's Organ of Control  
16 Tue Tinh St.  
Ha Noi  
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam  
**Telegrams: Chief Procurator, Supreme People's Organ of Control, Ha Noi, Vietnam**

**Salutation: Dear Chief Procurator**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:**

His Excellency  
Nguyen Ding Loc  
Minister of Justice  
25A Cat Linh  
Ha Noi  
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

and to diplomatic representatives of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the United Kingdom accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 15 July 1993.