

URGENT ACTION

DEATH SENTENCE COMMUTED IN SINGAPORE

In a landmark ruling in Singapore, the death sentence of Malaysian man Yong Vui Kong was commuted to life imprisonment and 15 strokes of the cane in November 2013. Yong Vui Kong had been on death row for over five years on drug charges.

Yong Vui Kong was only 19 when he was arrested for trafficking 47 grams of heroin into Singapore in June 2007. Under Singapore's laws at the time of his sentencing, this amounted to drug trafficking and warranted the mandatory death penalty. Legislative amendments to abolish the mandatory imposition of the death penalty under certain circumstances of murder and drug trafficking were adopted by the Singaporean Parliament on 14 November 2012.

Following the legislative amendments, Yong Vui Kong was among 34 prisoners whose cases were pending review. Yong Vui Kong's is the one of the first drug-related cases to have the death sentence commuted.

No further action is requested from the UA network. Many thanks to those who sent appeals.

Name: Yong Vui Kong
Gender m/f: male

Further information on UA: 296/09 Index: ASA 36/001/2014 Issue Date: 10 January 2014

This is the eighth update of UA 296/09. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA36/002/2012/en>

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