

URGENT ACTION

PANNIR SELVAM PRANTHAMAN EXECUTED

Malaysian national Pannir Selvam Pranthaman was executed in Singapore on 8 October 2025, despite global calls to halt his execution. He was convicted in 2017 of importing 51.84g of diamorphine (heroin) into Singapore. The trial judge found that he had only transported the drugs, but sentenced him to the mandatory death penalty as the prosecution did not issue the necessary certificate of substantive assistance that he needed to qualify for sentencing discretion. Executions in Singapore have continued at an alarming rate since Pannir Selvam Pranthaman's execution. We call on the government of Singapore to immediately establish an official moratorium on all executions, with a view to abolishing the death penalty.

NO FURTHER ACTION IS REQUESTED. MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO SENT APPEALS.

The Singapore authorities executed Pannir Selvam Pranthaman on 8 October 2025, despite widespread calls to halt the execution. Following the Court of Appeal's rejection of his appeal on 5 September 2025, his family had received notification on 3 October that the president had rejected Pannir's clemency request and that his execution was set for the third time.

Pannir Selvam Pranthaman's case has been riddled by human rights violations. A Malaysian national, he was convicted on 2 May 2017 of importing 51.84g of diamorphine (heroin) into Singapore and sentenced to the mandatory death penalty. The use of the death penalty for drug-related offences and the mandatory imposition of this punishment violate international human rights law and standards.

In 2017, the High Court found Pannir Selvam Pranthaman to have been involved only in transporting drugs, meeting the "courier" requirement under Singapore's Misuse of Drugs Act. However, the prosecution did not provide him with a certificate confirming that he substantively assisted investigations to disrupt further drug trafficking activities – a second condition to qualify for sentencing discretion in these cases – leaving no option to the judge but to impose the mandatory death penalty. This certificate requirement effectively shifts the sentencing decision to the prosecution, in violation of the right to a fair trial. Pannir Selvam Pranthaman's conviction also relied on legal presumption of guilt under the Misuse of Drugs Act, which the prosecution can invoke at trial to infer knowledge or possession of the drugs, shifting the burden of proof on to the defendant to be rebutted to the reversed – and therefore higher – legal standard of "on balance of probabilities". The presumptions of guilt violate the right to be presumed innocent – a peremptory norm of customary international law – and other fair trial guarantees under international human rights law.

Executions in Singapore have continued at an alarming rate, with a further eight people, including one woman, hanged since Pannir Selvam Pranthaman's execution. Amnesty International opposes the death penalty unconditionally, in all cases and under any circumstances. Pending full abolition of the death penalty, we renew our call on the Government of Singapore to immediately establish a moratorium on all executions; commute all death sentences; and review national legislation to bring it in line with international human rights law and standards.

NAME AND PRONOUN: Pannir Selvam Pranthaman (he/his)

THIS IS THE FIFTH AND FINAL OUTPUT FOR UA 107/24

LINK TO PREVIOUS UA: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa36/0281/2025/en/>

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