

President of Singapore
His Excellency SR Nathan
Office of the President
Istana, Orchard Road
Singapore 0922

November 2009

Dear President,

Young Malaysian Facing Execution in Singapore - SINGAPORE

We write with deep concern over the capital punishment of a young Malaysian, Yong Vui Kong.

Yong Vui Kong was arrested in June 2007, when he was 19, by officers from the Central Narcotics Bureau. He was charged with trafficking heroin, and then sentenced to death in January 2009.

Although there may be evidence showing that Yong was involved in drug trafficking, the death sentence is an ineffective deterrent and punishment in this case. If one of the main purposes of law is prohibiting the unlawful act, giving death penalty to a runner under instruction of their "boss" cannot effectively deter the drug trade, especially while the drug dealers remain unpunished. Moreover, death penalty is not a preventive way to stop young people from involving in drug trade. As seen in the story of Yong, he fell in the bad company and did not realize the seriousness of drug trade until he was arrested.

Please do not allow Yong to be a scapegoat of this case of drug trafficking as the irreversibly heavy punishment cannot deal with the root cause of the drug problem. Since Yong was arrested in 2007, he and his family have been living in tremendous pressure. This long-term psychological pressure has given Yong a lesson. Although he was over 18 years old when he was arrested, a second opportunity should be given to him considering he is still very young. **Thus we urge your authority as President to grant clemency to Yong Vui Kong and commute his death sentence immediately.**

We agree that the problem of drug trade is serious and should be tackled properly and effectively. But the problem cannot be fully resolved by restriction approach like death penalty. We take this opportunity to express that **death penalty is a violation of the right to life and urge you to introduce a moratorium on executions, with a view to complete abolition of the death penalty.**

Thank you for your kind attention and we look forward to your favourable attention to the matter.

Yours faithfully,

[SIGNATORIES OF THIS LETTER BELOW]

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