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TAIWAN (R.O.C.)

Supporting Chiou Ho-shun's pardon application after 32 years on death row

Excellency,

Chiou Ho-shun was arrested in 1988 in relation to the murder of Ko Hung Yu-lan and the kidnapping of Lu Cheng. He was convicted and sentenced to death in 1989.

According to Chiou Ho-shun himself and confirmed by years of investigations from different parties, during detention and interrogation Chiou was beaten repeatedly, blindfolded, tied up, forced to sit on ice and subjected to electric shocks and having water mixed with pepper poured into his mouth and nose. Prosecutors used the „confessions“ obtained through police torture of Chiou and other co-defendants as evidence to prove guilt, even though no material evidence linking Chiou Ho-shun to the crimes has ever been presented in court. Later, the key evidence against Chiou Ho-Shun even went missing. Because of problems with earlier trials, Taiwan's Supreme Court ordered the case to be retried 11 times, but it still affirmed Chiou Ho-shun's death sentence in 2011.

As he was being sentenced to death for the last time, Chiou said he didn't understand „why the judge didn't have the courage to deliver the verdict of not guilty when I didn't kill anyone“. Thirty-two years since his first conviction, Chiou Ho-shun is still on Taiwan's death row. With all judicial remedies nearly exhausted because of the passage of time, Chiou still waits in prison for his case to be overturned.

I oppose the death penalty, cruel and inhuman treatments and unfair trials in all cases. The legal system and the government should protect people's dignity and personal safety at all costs.

Chiou Ho-shun has already been in prison for 32 years. I call on you, President of Taiwan, to use your powers to address the violations of the right to fair trial that have tainted Chiou Ho-shun's conviction and accept his petition for pardon after 32 years of despair on death row. I look forward to hearing the good news from you.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Yours sincerely,