

SINGAPORE: END CRUEL AND ARBITRARY USE OF DEATH PENALTY

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Singapore has executed 16 people for drug related offences between 30 March 2022, when executions resumed after a two-year hiatus, and 15 September 2023.



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Singapore's use of the death penalty violates international law and standards. Drug-related offences do not meet the threshold of the "most serious crimes" involving intentional killing. Death sentences are also imposed as mandatory punishment and after proceedings that do not meet the highest standards for a fair trial, including through legal presumptions of guilt that contravene the presumption of innocence, or by using statements taken by the police without a lawyer present.

To avoid the mandatory death penalty, those found guilty of merely transporting drugs need to obtain a certificate of substantive assistance from the prosecution. This effectively takes the decision away from the judge and puts it in the hands of an official who is neither impartial nor independent in the judicial process.

Singapore is one of a handful of countries known to have carried out drug-related executions in recent years. Highly punitive drug policies have failed to tackle the use and availability of drugs and to offer effective protection from drug-related harm.

Dear Prime Minister,

I am alarmed by the Singapore government's continued resort to the death penalty, as well as violations of international human rights law and standards in its use that render executions not just cruel but also unlawful and arbitrary.

As first critical steps towards full abolition of the death penalty, I encourage you to immediately:

- establish an official moratorium on all executions;
- repeal the mandatory death penalty;
- end the use of the death penalty for offences, such as drug related ones, that do not meet the threshold of the "most serious crimes" involving intentional killing;
- bring proceedings fully in line with international standards for a fair trial.

Yours sincerely,

NAME:

COUNTRY:

By signing this card you are giving permission for Amnesty International to post it on your behalf.



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