

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 20/35/00

25 July 2000

Further information on EXTRA 154/99 (ASA 20/38/99, 4 November 1999) and follow-ups (ASA 20/39/99, 5 November 1999, ASA 20/06/00, 15 March 2000, ASA 20/29/00, 10 July 2000 and ASA 20/30/00, 13 July 2000) - Death Penalty / Fear of Imminent Execution

INDIA **Govindaswamy**

Govindaswamy's execution has been stayed until 7 August.

The Ministry of Home Affairs in New Delhi ordered the 14-day stay on 21 July, two days before he was scheduled to be hanged. No reason has been given for the stay of execution.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or your own language:

- welcoming the temporary stay of execution but expressing concern that a further date has been set;
- expressing grave concern that the President of India has rejected Govindaswamy's clemency petition;
- urging the authorities to use the 14-day stay to carefully consider the setback to human rights in India that this execution would signal;
- calling for Govindaswamy's death sentence to be commuted to a term of imprisonment;
- expressing unconditional opposition to the death penalty as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and emphasising that the death penalty has never been shown to have a special deterrent effect.

APPEALS TO:

Mr K.R. Narayanan
President of India
Office of the President
Rashtrapati Bhavan
New Delhi 110 004, India
Telegrams: President, New Delhi, India
Faxes: + 91 11 301 7290 / 7824 / 7077
Salutation: Dear President Narayanan

Mr L.K. Advani
Minister of Home Affairs
Ministry of Home Affairs
North Block
New Delhi 110 001, India
Telegrams: Home Minister, New Delhi, India
Faxes: + 91 11 301 5750
Salutation: Dear Minister

Mr. A. Jaitley
Minister of Law and Justice
Ministry of Law and Justice
Shastri Bhavan
Dr Rajendra Prasad Road
New Delhi 110 001, India

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Telegrams: Law Minister, New Delhi, India
Faxes: + 91 11 338 7259
Salutation: Dear Minister

The Law Minister resigned on 23 July 2000. Arun Jaitley, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting has been given additional charge of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs.

COPIES TO:

Mr Karunanidhi
Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Office of the Chief Minister
Chennai
Tamil Nadu, India
Faxes: + 91 44 536 6929/536 1441
Salutation: Dear Chief Minister

and to diplomatic representatives of India accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 7 August 2000.