

Ms Ghada Fathi Waly
Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

London, 19 July 2022

Dear Ms Fathy Waly,

Re: Request for urgent action by UNODC on the announced execution in Singapore of Nazeri bin Lajim for drug offences

The Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network (ADPAN), Capital Punishment Justice Project, and Harm Reduction International, together with 40 co-signing organisations from more than 20 countries, seek Your Office's urgent action concerning the **imminent execution of Nazeri bin Lajim ('Nazeri') for drug trafficking in Singapore**. The execution is planned for 11 days after the executions of Mr Kalwant Singh and Mr Norasharee bin Gous, also for drug offences. We also requested urgent action by Your Office in relation to these executions.

Nazeri was arrested in 2017 for drug trafficking and drug possession with intent of trafficking. He was convicted of possessing two bundles of a total of 906.4 grams of granular/powdery substance which was analysed and found to contain not less than 33.39 grams of diamorphine, and was sentenced to the mandatory death penalty under s 33(1) of the Misuse of Drugs Act.

Nazeri, now 64 years old, started using drugs at the age of 14. His long-term drug use has led him to, in his sister's words '[spending] three-quarters of his life trapped in this cycle of incarceration... Multiple stints behind bars, whether in state-run Drug rehabilitation Centres or in prison.'

During trial at the High Court, Nazeri maintained that he had only ordered one bundle, some of which he intended to keep for himself. With that, he argued that the total traffickable quantity was below the trafficking threshold for the mandatory death penalty. The High Court rejected Nazeri's claim that he would keep 10 or 12 packets for himself as they did not believe he could consume such quantity and only accepted five packets for personal use; making the total traffickable quantity above the threshold. The Court acknowledged that Nazeri's lack of financial means to support his drug use 'drove him to drug-trafficking in the first place'. On an Application to Re-open the Appeal in 2021, a medical report from a psychiatrist was tendered to the Court, stating that at the time of arrest, Nazeri used various type of drugs, and that higher consumption rate was more likely; the Court did not accept this report and the application to re-open the appeal was dismissed.

If carried out, this will be the **fifth execution in Singapore – all for drug offences - since the beginning of 2022**. This marks a significant shift in practice for Singapore, where no executions took place in 2020 or 2021. Further, it outlines a worrying pattern of habitual executions of people on death row for drug offences; in light of which up to 50 people should be considered at imminent risk of execution.

We reiterate, once again, that drug offences do not meet the threshold of 'most serious' crimes to which the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights mandates that the death penalty be restricted to in retentionist countries. The death penalty for drug offences also contradicts international drug control law, as indicated by [UNODC](#) and the [INCB](#). Further, mandatory death sentences are in contravention of the right to life and the right to a fair trial.

In light of the imminent risk of execution that Nazeri is faced with, and in consideration of the failure to halt the four previous executions this year, we respectfully seek the urgent diplomatic intervention of Your Office to halt the execution. We strongly urge UNODC to publicly call on Singaporean authorities, in the strongest possible terms, to halt the impending execution immediately and to impose a moratorium on all executions.

Continuing to stay silent while Singapore, once again, acts in defiance of international human rights and drug control law would denounce UNODC's [stated commitment to human rights](#) as a core principle of international drug policy and of UNODC's strategy.

Sincerely,



Naomi Burke-Shyne,
Harm Reduction International

On behalf of the co-signatories:

1. The Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network (ADPAN)
2. Capital Punishment Justice Project
3. Harm Reduction International
4. Eleos Justice, Monash University, Australia
5. Ms Helen Clark, Chair of The Global Commission on Drug Policy
6. International Drug Policy Consortium
7. World Coalition Against the Death Penalty
8. Lawyers Collective, India
9. Women and Harm Reduction International Network (WHRIN)
10. The HIV Legal Network, Canada
11. Drug Policy Network South East Europe
12. Metzineres, Spain
13. Recovering Nepal, Nepal
14. Centre on Drug Policy Evaluation (CDPE), Canada
15. Southern Methodist University (SMU) Human Rights Program, USA
16. Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign, Ireland
17. Skoun, Lebanese Addiction Center, Lebanon
18. Law Enforcement Partnership Action, United Kingdom
19. Ensemble Contre La Peine de Mort (ECPM)
20. Action des Chretiens pour l'Abolition de la Torture (ACAT), France
21. Society for Human Rights and Development Organization (SHRDO), Sierra Leone
22. Fundacion Latinoamerica Reforma (CHI)
23. Hands Off Cain
24. Health Poverty Action, United Kingdom

25. Parliamentarians for Global Action
26. Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS)
27. The Sunny Center Foundation USA Inc.
28. The German Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (GCADP)
29. Federazione Italiana Diritti Umani / Italian Federation for Human Rights, Italy
30. LBH Masyarakat, Indonesia
31. ACAT Belgium
32. Human Rights & Democracy Media Centre 'SHAMS', Palestine
33. Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty, Taiwan
34. Drug Policy Australia
35. NZ Drug Foundation, New Zealand
36. Corporation Viso Mutop, Colombia
37. ACAT Germany
38. Federal Association of Vietnamese Refugees in the Federal Republic of Germany
39. Witness to Innocence, USA
40. Tunisian Coalition Against the Death Penalty (TCADP), Tunisia
41. La CPJ
42. Intercambios Asociación Civil, Argentina
43. La Società della Ragione, Italy
44. International Doctors for Healthier Drug Policies (IDHDP), United Kingdom
45. International CURE, USA
46. Harm Reduction Australia