

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

London, 4 July 2022

Dear Ms Fathi Waly,

Re: request for urgent action by UNODC on the announced execution in Singapore of Kalwant Singh for drug offences

The International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD), Harm Reduction International (HRI), the International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), the Network of Asian People who Use Drugs, together with 99 co-signing organisations and experts from 50 countries, seek Your Office's urgent action concerning **two imminent executions for drug trafficking in Singapore**, scheduled for this Thursday 7th July.

Kalwant Singh, a Malaysian national, was arrested in 2013 for drug trafficking and drug possession with intent of trafficking. He was 23 years' old at the time of the offence. At trial, the Court agreed that Mr Singh's role was limited to that of a mere drug courier, and undisputed evidence emerged that Mr Singh was pushed - if not coerced - into committing the offence as a way to repay a debt (of around RM 44,000/USD 10,000) contracted with an 'illegal money lender' in Malaysia, who promised him RM 100 (around USD 12) for each bundle delivered to Singapore. To this day, Mr Singh maintains that he was misled on the exact nature of the substance he was transporting. Mr Singh supported the Central Narcotics Bureau with the connected drug investigation, but the Public Prosecutor did not provide him with the Certificate of Substantive Assistance required by the law to allow the Court to impose an alternative sentence. As a consequence, he was sentenced to the mandatory death penalty. His appeal was dismissed in 2017, and he has spent nine years in prison, of which six on death row.

Norasharee bin Gous was arrested in 2015, almost two years after Mr Singh and a third co-defendant Mohamad Yazid bin Md Yusof, known as "Yazid"), in connection to the same drug transaction. Mr bin Gous was charged with abetting drug trafficking, purely on the basis of Yazid's testimony claiming Mr bin Gous was in charge of the operation. Mr bin Gous consistently refuted this claim, alleging that Yazid was trying to frame him because of an old rivalry. The Court concluded the Mr bin Gous was responsible for abetting drug trafficking, and sentenced him to the mandatory death penalty. His appeal was dismissed in 2017, and Mr bin Gous has been on death row since. A second appeal in 2017 was also dismissed.

Thanks to his testimony against Mr Singh and Mr Bin Gous, Yazid received a Certificate of Substantive Assistance. As his role in the operation was limited to that of a courier, the issuance of the Certificate allowed the Court to sentence him to life imprisonment instead of death.

The scheduling of two executions in the same day is relatively rare for Singapore, where lawyers and anti-death penalty activists are facing increased and sustained harassment. If carried out, these will be the **third and fourth execution in Singapore – all for drug offences - since the beginning of 2022**. The executions of Mr Abdul Kahar bin Othman and Mr Nagaenthran Dharmalingam, carried out respectively in April and May 2022, were condemned by a broad range of actors, including UN human rights experts, disability rights and drug policy reform activists, the Malaysian Prime Minister and King,

and the European Union. Following these executions, seven UN Special Procedures [called on Singapore](#) to immediately impose a moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

We reiterate 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 which Mr Singh and Mr bin Gous are faced with, and in consideration of the failure to halt the two previous executions this year, we respectfully seek the urgent diplomatic intervention of Your Office – both in Singapore and in Malaysia - to halt the executions. We urge UNODC to publicly call on Singaporean authorities, in the strongest possible terms, to immediately halt the impending executions 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 strike a blow to UNODC’s [stated commitment to human rights](#) as a core principle of international drug policy, and of the Office’s own Strategy.

Sincerely,



Judy Chang
Executive Director,
INPUD



Naomi Burke-Shyne
Executive Director,
HRI



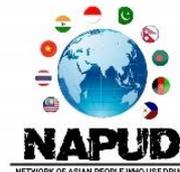
Ann Fordham
Executive Director,
IDPC



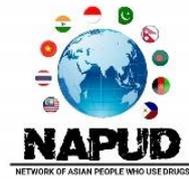
Francis Joseph
XXXXX.
NAPUD

Co-signatories:

- 1) Abdorrahman Boroumand Center for Human Rights in Iran, USA
- 2) Acción Técnica Social (ATS), Colombia
- 3) All-Ukrainian Network of people who uses drugs, Ukraine
- 4) Ancella Voets, independent harm reduction specialist
- 5) Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network, Malaysia
- 6) ASEAN Harm Reduction Association (AHRA), Regional
- 7) Association for Safer Drug Policies, Norway
- 8) Capital Punishment Justice Project, Australia
- 9) Catalan Network of People who Use Drugs (CATNPUD), Spain
- 10) Catalan Network of People who Use Drugs (CATNPUD), Spain
- 11) Center for Humane Policy, Bulgaria
- 12) Centre d’Observation des Droits de l’Homme et d’Assistance Sociale (CODHAS), RD Congo
- 13) Centre for Independent Journalism (CIJ), Malaysia
- 14) Centre on Drug Policy Evaluation, Canada
- 15) Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS), Argentina
- 16) Citizens against Enforced Disappearance (CAGED), Malaysia



- 17) Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign, Ireland
- 18) Club Eney, Ukraine
- 19) Coalition Tunisienne Contre la Peine de Mort (CTCPM), Tunisia
- 20) Comitato Paul Rougeau, Italy
- 21) Consumers Associated Survive Organisation (CASO), Portugal
- 22) Correlation - European Harm Reduction Network (C-EHRN), Netherlands
- 23) Costa Rican Association on Drug Studies and Interventions, Costa Rica
- 24) Culture pour la paix et la justice CPJ asbl, RD Congo
- 25) Dianova International, Switzerland/International
- 26) Društvo AREAL, Slovenia
- 27) Eleos Justice, Monash University, Australia
- 28) Ensemble contre la peine de mort (ECPM), France
- 29) Eurasian Network of People who Use Drugs, Regional
- 30) European Network of People Who Use Drugs (EuroNPUD), Regional
- 31) FAAAT think & do tank, France/International
- 32) Federation francophone bruxelloise des institutions pour toxicomanes, Belgium
- 33) FIDU - Italian Federation for human rights, Italy
- 34) Fixpunkt e. V., Germany
- 35) Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI,) Uganda
- 36) Fundación Fad Juventud, Spain
- 37) Fundación Latinoamérica Reforma, Chile
- 38) Ganja Growers and Producers of Jamaica (GGPAJ), Jamaica
- 39) German Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (GCADP), Germany
- 40) Harm Reduction Australia, Australia
- 41) Health Action Support Initiative (HASI), Nigeria
- 42) HIV Buddies, Pakistan
- 43) HIV Legal Network, Canada
- 44) Human Rights & Democracy Media Center "SHAMS", Palestine
- 45) Hungarian Civil Liberties Union, Hungary
- 46) IDU Care, Philippines
- 47) Indian Drug Users' Forum (IDUF), India
- 48) Institute for Health, Social Policy and Research Development (former STOP AIDS NGO), Albania
- 49) Instituto RIA, AC., México
- 50) Interdisciplinary Centre for Cannabis Research (ICCR), UK
- 51) International Commission of Jurists, Switzerland/International
- 52) Justice for Sisters, Malaysia
- 53) Kenya Human Rights Commission, Kenya
- 54) Kenya Network Of People Who Use Drugs (KeNPUD)
- 55) Kwale Network of People Who Use Drugs of Kenya (KwaNPUD), Kenya
- 56) Lawyers Collective, India
- 57) Legal Dignity, Malaysia
- 58) Lembaga Bantuan Hukum Masyarakat (LBHM), Indonesia
- 59) Life Advancement Project Initiative (LAPI), Nigeria
- 60) Lifespark - movement against the death penalty, Switzerland
- 61) Mame Bougouma Diene, Board - West Africa Drug Policy Network
- 62) Metzineres - Environments of Shelter for womxn who use drugs surviving violences, Spain



Inti 63) Mexico United Against Crime (MUCD), Mexico

- 64) Middle East and North Africa Network of People who Use Drugs (MENANPUD), Regional
- 65) Mouvance des Abolitionnistes du Congo Brazzaville, RD Congo
- 66) Network of People who Use Drugs in Bangladesh (NPUD), Bangladesh
- 67) Network of PLHIV & PUD in Nepal (NAPP), Nepal
- 68) New Orleans Trystereo Distribution Collective, USA
- 69) New Zealand Needle Exchange Programme, New Zealand
- 70) Nigeria network of people who use drugs (NNPUD), Nigeria
- 71) ONG Responsabilité Espoir Vie Solidarité (REVS PLUS), Burkina Faso
- 72) Organisation for the Prevention of Intense Suffering (OPIS), Switzerland
- 73) Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), USA/International
- 74) Paroles Autour de la Santé : Mali, Guadeloupe, Ivory Coast
- 75) Parsec ong, Italy
- 76) PeerNUPS (Greek Peer Network), Greece
- 77) People Like Us Hang Out! (PLU HO), Malaysia
- 78) Persaudaraan Korba Napza Indonesia (PKNI), Indonesia
- 79) Recovering Nepal, Federation of PUD and Drug Service Organisations, Nepal
- 80) Release, UK
- 81) Romanian Association against AIDS (ARAS), Romania
- 82) Salam for Democracy and Human Rights, Bahrain
- 83) SALVAGE Women and Children from Drug Abuse, Tanzania
- 84) Scottish Drugs Forum, UK
- 85) Singapore Anti-Death Penalty Campaign, Singapore
- 86) South African Network of People who Use Drugs (SANPUD), South Africa
- 87) Students for Sensible Drug Policy International, Austria
- 88) Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM), Malaysia
- 89) Taiwan Alliance to End the Death Penalty (TAEDP), Taiwan
- 90) Tanzanian network for people who use drugs (TaNPUD), Tanzania
- 91) Thai Network of People who Use Drugs (ThaiNPUD), Thailand
- 92) The Advocates for Human Rights, USA
- 93) The Association for Humane Drug Policy, Norway
- 94) The Rights Practice, UK
- 95) Treatment Action Group, USA
- 96) Vietnam Network of People who Use Drugs (VNPUD), Vietnam
- 97) Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), USA
- 98) Women and Harm Reduction International Network, Indonesia
- 99) Youth RISE, Ireland