

URGENT ACTION

BROTHERS HURRIEDLY EXECUTED IN SECRETIVE MANNER

Despite a pending clemency application before the state's Pardon Board, brothers Suthar Batumalai and B. Rames Batumalai were executed at dawn on 15 March 2017. Contrary to international standards, their family were not provided adequate notice of the scheduled executions.

The family of **Suthar Batumalai** and **B. Rames Batumalai** were informed, by a letter dated 13 March 2017, to visit the prison on 14 March 2017 to pay their final respects. Upon arrival, prison authorities informed them that the execution was to be carried out the following day on 15 March 2017.

The brothers were originally scheduled to be executed on 24 February 2017, however they were granted a temporary stay of execution, pending the hearing of a petition containing new evidence on their case. To date, the clemency application, filed on 23 February 2017, has not been heard by the Pardons Board of the Negeri Sembilan state.

The executions were carried out in a hurried and secretive manner. This practice has been observed by Amnesty International in other cases of imminent executions the organization has been alerted to since 2014. International law in para 8 of the 'Safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty' which was approved by the Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/50 of 25 May 1984 clearly states that executions may not be carried out pending any appeal or other proceeding relating to pardon or commutation of the sentence. This hurried execution is in violation of international law and standards, as the families should be given adequate notice of the scheduled executions.

On the night before the execution, a candlelight vigil was held for the two men, attended by their family members of the two men, as well as members of civil society, in protest of their rushed and unjust execution and the continued use of the death penalty.

Suthar Batumalai and B. Rames Batumalai were transported back to their home state, Seremban, Negeri Sembilan, after their execution. Their funerals were held on 16 March 2017.

No further action is requested from the UA network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.

This is the second update of UA 53/17. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa28/5873/2017/en/>

Further information on UA: 53/17 Index: ASA 28/5900/2017 Issue Date: 17 March 2017

