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Dear Prime Minister,

I deeply regret the resumption of executions in Singapore after more than two years without any. I urge you to immediately halt any plans to carry out any further executions and review national legislation to bring it in line with international human rights law and standards, as first urgent steps towards abolition.

I am astonished by Singapore's continued resort to the death penalty for drug-related offences and as mandatory punishment, which are practices not only prohibited under international law and standards, but abandoned by the majority of the world's countries. Against Singapore's international commitments undertaken as a state party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, people with intellectual and mental disabilities have been placed at risk of execution. Several concerns on the fairness of the proceedings have tainted the use of the death penalty against those convicted of drug trafficking.

International law and standards set out restrictions on the use of the death penalty to protect against the arbitrary deprivation of life.

I urge the Singapore government to take urgent steps to reform the death penalty laws, instead of pursuing further executions. Singapore is one of four countries known to have carried out executions for drug-related offences in recent years. Due to the country's drug control law, judges are very limited in their ability to take into consideration possible mitigating circumstances at sentencing, including drug dependence or other circumstances relevant to the case. Unfortunately, Singapore's highly punitive drug policies have failed not only to tackle the use and availability of drugs in the country, but also to offer effective protection from drug-related harm.

I urge you to immediately halt all executions, commute the sentences for those currently on death row, and establish an official moratorium on all executions as first step towards full abolition of the death penalty.

Yours sincerely,