

Lawrence Wong

Prime Minister of Singapore
Office of the Prime Minister
Orchard Road
Istana
Singapore 238823
Fax: +65 6835 6621
Email: pmo_hq@pmo.gov.sg

Dear Prime Minister,

I urge you to immediately commute the death sentence imposed on Pannir Selvam Pranthaman and halt all executions in the country. His death sentence, like those of several others on death row, was imposed in violation of international human rights law and standards, which would render his execution unlawful and arbitrary.

International law and standards set out restrictions on the use of the death penalty to protect against the arbitrary deprivation of life. These include the prohibition against imposing this punishment as a mandatory sentence; for offences that do not meet the threshold of the “most serious crimes”, including drug-related offences; and after proceedings that do not meet the highest standards for a fair trial. Violations of all these safeguards are present in this case.

I am alarmed at the high rate of executions recorded in Singapore in recent weeks, with four men hanged in November alone. While I oppose the death penalty in all circumstances, it is particularly disturbing to see such a relentless pursuit of hangings. This is at odds with the global trend away from this cruel punishment and the overall reduction in executions reported in Singapore in recent years. Singapore is one of only five countries known to have carried out executions for drug related offences in 2023. Punitive drug policies have failed to tackle the use and availability of drugs in the country, and offer no effective protection from drug-related harm.

I call on you to immediately commute the death sentence of Pannir Selvam Pranthaman and establish an official moratorium on all executions, as a first critical step towards full abolition of the death penalty.

Yours sincerely,