



## **ADPAN calls on Singapore to immediately halt the imminent execution of Syed Suhail Bin Syed Zin**

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Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network (ADPAN) urgently calls upon the Government of Singapore to stop the execution of Syed Suhail Bin Syed Zin who is scheduled to be hanged at Changi Prison on Friday 18 September having being convicted of drug offences.

Singapore is a sovereign nation which rightly recognises the fundamental liberties of the person and the right to life and liberty in Part IV of its Constitution. To engage in state-sanctioned killing of prisoners, regardless of the nature of their offending, is an affront to the universal right to life and accordingly undermines the inherent dignity of all people. Singapore is in a position to adopt the recommendations of UN member states and ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR. By doing so, Singapore could promote the fundamental liberties which it protects in its Constitution and acknowledge that the persistence of the death penalty is an inherent contradiction to the 'enhancement of human dignity and progressive development of human rights'. ADPAN calls for the Government of Singapore to exercise its sovereign powers and immediately stay the execution of Syed Suhail.

The death penalty will not ensure the protection and safety of the Singaporean people from drugs. There is no evidence that executions are a more effective deterrent. The international drug trade continues to thrive despite thousands of executions being carried out in the last decade for drug-related offences worldwide. Syed Suhail has suffered from drug addiction problems and is himself a victim of the drug trade. ADPAN urges Singapore to take an approach that would address the underlying causes of addiction and offending rather than continuing to carry out executions.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Singapore's focus should be on preventing the spread of COVID-19 instead of creating more pain and death by carrying out executions. Syed's sisters and aunt and uncle live in Malaysia. Syed's father died in 2006. Syed's execution should be stayed to prevent his family from being subjected to any more loss.

It should not be assumed that the death penalty is a necessary feature of the administration of justice within Singapore. Rather, Singapore has the opportunity to introduce a moratorium on executions and be a human-rights leader in the Asian-Pacific region, following the unmistakable international trend towards abolition of the death penalty. ADPAN maintains that the death penalty is cruel and unusual in all circumstances and advocates for the abolition of the death penalty worldwide.

Proceeding with the execution of Syed Suhail Bin Syed Zin would only illustrate the inherent futility of the death penalty. ADPAN calls on the Government of Singapore to take action immediately, consistent with the exercise of its sovereign powers, to prevent Syed's unnecessary death.

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For and on behalf of **ADPAN (Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network)**

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## **ADPAN**

ADPAN is the peak regional body for organisations committed to the abolition of the death penalty across Asia-Pacific, with members from approximately 22 countries within the region. As such, ADPAN maintains that the death penalty violates the right to life, that it is the ultimate form of cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment and that the death penalty should be entirely abolished internationally.