

STATEMENT

Global Commission on Drug Policy – Calling on Singapore to stop executions

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Global Commission on Drug Policy expresses its deep dismay over Singapore's decision to continue to execute persons convicted on charges of drug trafficking.

This week, in Singapore, two executions for drug-related offences are scheduled to take place. The two victims are: Mohd Aziz bin Hussain, a 56-year-old Singaporean Malay man, convicted in 2018 of trafficking approximately fifty (50) grams of diamorphine (heroin); and Saridewi Djamani, a 45-year-old Singaporean woman convicted for possession of approximately thirty (30) grams of diamorphine (heroin) for the purposes of trafficking. It has been almost twenty years since Singapore last executed a woman.

Imposing the death penalty for drug-related offences is not only an exceptionally harsh and disproportionate punishment but is also violates international human rights law. The Global Commission calls on the government of Singapore to adopt a formal moratorium on executions for drug-related offences, to commute death sentences for drug-related offences, to identify and put in place alternatives to such disproportionate punishment, and to ensure the right to a fair trial for all defendants, including those charged with such offences, in line with its international obligations.

If these executions proceed, Singapore will have executed 15 people for drug-related offences since 30 March 2022, an average of one execution per month. The continuation of executions for drug-related offences in 32 jurisdictions in the world is distressing. The United Nations General Assembly's Third Committee (which focuses on social, humanitarian and cultural issues), with close to two-thirds of the UN's membership (126 Member States), supported the call for a moratorium on the death penalty worldwide.

The Global Commission renews its urgent plea to the Government of Singapore to halt all executions, commit to the full abolition of the death penalty, reform its domestic legislation to reflect that abolition, and opt for more effective and humane drug policy reform in line with international law.

About the Global Commission on Drug Policy

In 2011, with the aim of opening an honest debate on drugs and inspiring better drug policies globally - based on a commitment to human rights and respect for the findings of scientific endeavour - former Heads of State and Government from the Americas and Europe created the [Global Commission on Drug Policy](#) (hereinafter, the "Global Commission").

The Global Commission now has 29 Commissioners from around the world who - aware of the failure of the current international drug control regime - lend their voices and political and social influence to raise drug policy issues across all levels.

At the international level, Commissioners act as global ambassadors for drug policy reform by cultivating strategic partnerships and reaching out to a diverse multi sectoral audience including community representatives and high-level decision makers. At regional, national and local levels, the Commissioners tailor their actions to the specific contexts and issues, capitalizing on their diverse geographic representation and knowledge.

In its first decade of life, the Global Commission built an important corpus of drug policy-related material, including eleven reports:

- The War on Drugs, 2011
- The War on Drugs and HIV/AIDS, How the Criminalization of Drug Use fuels the Global Pandemic, 2012
- The Negative Impact of the War on Drugs on Public Health: The Hidden Hepatitis C Epidemic, 2013
- Taking Control: Pathways to Drug Policies that Work, 2014
- The Negative Impact of Drug Control on Public Health: The Global Crisis of Avoidable Pain, 2015
- Advancing Drug Policy Reform: a new approach to decriminalization, 2016
- The World Drug [Perception] Problem: Countering prejudices about people who use drugs, 2017
- Regulation: The Responsible Control of Drugs, 2018
- Classification of Psychoactive Substances: When Science was Left Behind, 2019
- Enforcement of Drug Laws: Refocusing on Organized Crime Elites, 2020
- Time to End Prohibition, 2021

Five thematic position papers:

- The Opioid Crisis in North America, October 2017
- Drug Policy and the Sustainable Development Agenda, September 2018
- Drug Policy and Deprivation of Liberty, June 2019
- Drug Policy and City Government, 2021
- Drug Policy in Colombia - The Road to a Just Regulation, 2022

One feature-length documentary and one animated short film:

- Breaking the Taboo, Sundog Pictures, June 2011
- The History of the War on Drugs, Almap/BBDO, August 2014

The Global Commission is an independent, non-partisan and non-profit organisation hosted by the [Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies \(IHEID\)](#) in Geneva, Switzerland.

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