

Capital Punishment Update

No. 1, 25 March 2005
produced by the [NSW Council for Civil Liberties](#)
for the federal parliamentary cross-party working group against the death penalty

Overseas

Vietnam

24 March 2005: Australian citizen, Mr Tran Van Thanh, lost his appeal against his death sentence in Vietnam's Supreme Court yesterday.

source: ABC Asia Pacific, 'Vietnam court confirms death penalty for Australian national', <http://www.abcasiapacific.com/news/stories_to/asiapacific_stories_lofi_1331390.htm>.

The Australian government will appeal to the Vietnamese President for clemency. In 2003, diplomatic pressure helped in having Ms Le My Linh's Vietnamese death sentence commuted to life imprisonment.

source: Kimina Lyall, 'Australian loses death penalty appeal, *The Australian* (22 March 2005), <http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5744,12620758%255E2702,00.html>.

Singapore

17 March 2005: ABC Radio 'AM' reports that Mr Toung Van Nguyen may be helped in his plea for clemency by the assistance he has been providing to the AFP in on-going drug investigations.

source: ABC Radio 'AM', "Melbourne man facing execution in Singapore for drug trafficking may be spared", <<http://www.abc.net.au/am/content/2005/s1325534.htm>>.

Indonesia

25 March 2005: The trial of Ms Schapelle Corby in Denpasar has been adjourned to allow for the transportation of a crucial defence witness from Australia. The Australian Justice Minister, Senator Chris Ellison, says that arrangements are now in place to transport the witness from an Australian prison to the Indonesian courtroom.

If convicted, Ms Corby could face the death penalty. Australian media coverage of this case has been extensive.
