

VAN NGUYEN

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE COMMONWEALTH
LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION (CLA)**

The Commonwealth Lawyers' Association has read with concern the rejection of the request for clemency made on behalf of Van Nguyen following his conviction for importing heroin into Singapore and sentence of death. The sentence of death imposed on Van Nguyen by the Court was a mandatory sentence.

A mandatory sentence of death is incompatible with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, see Kennedy v Trinidad and Tobago 2002 CCPR/C/74/D/845/1998.

It is also a cruel and unusual punishment, see Reyes v The Queen 2002 2 AC 235 and Boyce v The Queen 2005 1 AC 400.

In the circumstances the Commonwealth Lawyers' Association urges the Singapore Government not to carry out the sentence of death imposed on Van Nguyen.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graeme Mew' with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Graeme Mew

President

Commonwealth Lawyers' Association