

**DRUG
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ARE MORE
DANGEROUS
THAN
DRUGS
THEMSELVES**



From March 8 to 12, 2010 during the yearly meeting of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna, governments from all over the world will once again declare their support to the global fight against drugs, i.e. the substances that were prohibited worldwide by a UN Convention in 1961.

In Malaysia, as in 21 other countries in the world, people who use or possess relatively small quantities of drugs, including cannabis, are sentenced to death. These sentences are mandatory: judges have no possibility to invoke any extenuating circumstance. Furthermore, the usual burden of proof is reversed so that an individual is presumed to be guilty unless he or she can prove otherwise.

International Conventions on Human Rights, various UN Human Rights Bodies and the UN Secretary General have expressed that the "death penalty should only be considered in cases where the crime is intentional and results in lethal or extremely grave consequences, not in cases of economic, non-violent or victimless offences. In those cases a death sentence may be considered as an arbitrary execution."

The use, sale or trafficking of drugs is not intended to have a lethal outcome. People use drugs to feel good or to feel better, and as long as there is a demand there will always be a supply. Also in Malaysia, drug use has continued to rise in spite of the death penalty. The people who are occasionally caught by authorities do not have major responsibilities in this business. Killing them will not scare the drug gangs away. On the contrary: thanks to these punishments, the leaders in the drug business can continue to justify extraordinary high prices for their goods

Legitimized by the United Nations, drug prohibition continues to drive repressive policies and legislation including death sentence. These policies are typically rooted in moral instead of rational arguments, and impede the development of progressive and effective responses to any problems that the use of drugs may cause.

- **FOR AN END TO THE DEATH PENALTY FOR DRUG OFFENSES IN MALAYSIA AND ELSEWHERE**
- **FOR AN END TO DRUG PROHIBITION**
- **JOIN US IN FRONT OF THE MALAYSIAN EMBASSY, 45 BELGRAVE SQUARE, LONDON SW1X 8QT**
(near Hyde Park Corner, Piccadilly Line).

THURSDAY 4 MARCH 2010, 1 PM



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