



# Tamil Information Centre

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Committed to Human Rights and Community Development

## TIC Press Release

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### **TIC pleads clemency for Murugan, Perarivalan and Santhan under sentence of death in India**

The Tamil Information Centre (TIC) urges the Indian authorities to show clemency for Murugan, Perarivalan and Santhan who are under sentence of death in the Rajiv Gandhi murder case.

The TIC acknowledges that the assassination of former Prime Indian Minister Rajiv Gandhi was a grave crime, but strongly opposes the death penalty in all cases, without exception, regardless of the nature of the crime, the characteristics of the offender, or the method used by any state to end the life of the prisoner. The TIC joins many thousand people around the world who are appealing to the President of India to review the case of, Murugan, Perarivalan and Santhan, who have already spent 20 years in prison, to show mercy and revoke the death sentence awarded to them.

In 1998 a special court sentenced 26 men and women to death for the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi. However, in May 1999, the Supreme Court commuted three of the death sentences to life imprisonment and released 19 others. Of the remaining four, one was granted clemency in August 2000, while the appeals of the others are pending before the President.

Capital punishment devalues the right to life and the danger that innocent people may be executed because of errors in the criminal justice system is always present. When evidence has not established that capital punishment is a deterrent or reduces crime, we urge India to join many other countries and take measures to remove this cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment.

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