

Office of the President of the Republic of China (Taiwan)
No. 122, Sec. 1, Chongqing S. Rd
Zhongcheng District
Taipei City 100
Taiwan (R.O.C.)

Dear President Tsai:

Pardon Chiou Ho-shun after 31 years on death row

Chiou Ho-shun was arrested in 1988 in relation to the murder of Ko Hung Yu-lan and the kidnapping of Lu Cheng. He was convicted and sentenced to death in 1989.

According to Chiou Ho-shun himself and confirmed by years of investigations from different parties, during detention and interrogation Chiou was beaten repeatedly, blindfolded, tied up, forced to sit on ice and subjected to electric shocks and having water mixed with pepper poured into his mouth and nose. Prosecutors used the “confessions” obtained through police torture of Chiou and other co-defendants as evidence to prove guilt, even though no material evidence linking Chiou Ho-shun to the crimes has ever been presented in court. Later, the key evidence against Chiou Ho-Shun even went missing. Because of problems with earlier trials, Taiwan’s Supreme Court ordered the case to be retried 11 times, but it still affirmed Chiou Ho-shun's death sentence in 2011.

As he was being sentenced to death for the last time, Chiou said he didn't understand “why the judge didn't have the courage to deliver the verdict of not guilty when I didn't kill anyone”. Thirty-one years since his first conviction, Chiou Ho-shun is still on Taiwan’s death row. With all judicial remedies nearly exhausted because of the passage of time, Chiou still waits in prison for his case to be overturned. Chiou Ho-shun, a young man in his 20s when he entered prison, has now become an old man full of grey hair and struggling with illness.

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty, cruel and inhuman treatments and unfair trials in all cases. The legal system and the government should protect people’s dignity and personal safety at all costs. Therefore, we call on the government of Taiwan to ensure that Chiou Ho-shun is granted pardon and let him go home after 31 years in despair.

Chiou Ho-shun has already been in prison for 31 years. Only you can put this to an end for Chiou. We look forward to hearing the good news from you.

Yours sincerely,