

MEDIA STATEMENT
3 March 2014

FIRST PERSON TO QUALIFY FOR RE-SENTENCING UNDER
THE DIMINISHED RESPONSIBILITY LIMB

1. On 3 March 2014, the High Court found that Dinesh Pillai A/L K Raja Retnam had proven, on a balance of probabilities, that he only played the role of a courier within the meaning of s 33B(3)(a) of the Misuse of Drugs Act (Cap 185, 2008 Rev Ed), and that he was suffering from such abnormality of mind as substantially impaired his mental responsibility for his acts within the meaning of s 33B(3)(b) of the said Act. Dinesh Pillai was accordingly re-sentenced to a term of life imprisonment.
2. Dinesh Pillai is the first person awaiting capital punishment who has qualified for the exception under s 33B(3)(b) of the said Act. He was psychiatrically assessed to be suffering from major depressive disorder of moderate severity at and around the material time of the offence. A medical examination also suggested some degree of organic damage to his brain.
3. The High Court's finding that Dinesh Pillai qualified for the diminished responsibility exception is consistent with Parliament's intent in ensuring this exception operates in a measured and narrowly defined way, extending latitude for consideration in cases like Dinesh Pillai's without undermining the Government's zero-tolerance policy towards drugs.

If you have any queries, please contact the Attorney-General's Chambers' Media Relations Unit.

Thank you.

Media Relations Unit
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