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[Nguyen Tuong Van Has Been Executed](#)

By hanging

After almost three years of imprisonment in the Changi prison, the [Singaporean authorities](#) have executed today at 6.00 am (2200 GMT) the Australian drug smuggler Nguyen Tuong Van, Reuters informed. One minute after the execution, at a church in Melbourne, Nguyen's home town, the bell tolled 25 times, for every year of the Australian's age. In his last 24 hours, Nguyen Tuong Van was accompanied by the prayers of his fellow Australians and Singaporean activists, who marched near the Changi prison in pairs. Still, the authorities made a 'noble gesture' and, after many requests and pleas, they allowed the condemned man's mother to visit him and touch his hands and face. "She said to me she was talking to him and able to touch his hair and face. It was a great comfort to her," Nguyen's lawyer Julian McMahon told reporters. Although the Australian PM, John Howard, said a while ago that any citizen of his country who takes drugs to Asia is "stupid" and that he/she shouldn't expect the government to bail them out, it seems that the decision to hang Nguyen was more than the Australian official had expected. "I have told the Prime Minister of Singapore that I believe it will have an effect on the relationship on a people-to-people, population-to-population basis," Mr. Howard told a Melbourne radio referring to the effects of Nguyen Tuong Van's hanging. A person who is hanged can die in two ways, depending on the method employed. If the condemned person is let loose from a few meters, he/she dies instantaneously through the severing of the spinal cord; otherwise, the death occurs slowly through asphyxiation.