

Rajiv's Assassins To Be Hanged, President Rejects Clemency Pleas
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NEW DELHI, Aug 12 (Bernama) -- Three killers of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on death row will be hanged after their clemency petitions were rejected by Indian President Pratibha Patil, Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

The death sentences of the three men--Murugan, Santhan and Perarivalan -- were confirmed by the Supreme Court in 2000.

The capital punishment of the fourth convict Nalini was however commuted to life by the Apex Court.

A Rasthrapati Bhavan(Presidential Palace) spokesperson said Thursday the clemency petitions of all the three condemned prisoners were turned down by the President last week. It is not yet known when the executions will be carried out.

The three men and Nalini belonged to Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam (LTTE) and were convicted of assassination of Gandhi in Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu on May 21, 1991.

The three men, charged with criminal conspiracy and execution of the suicide attack plot, had filed mercy petition before the President after confirmation of sentence by the apex court.

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