



## SINGAPORE CUSTOMS PRESS RELEASE

### CONVICTED FOR BROKERING IN STRATEGIC GOODS WITHOUT AUTHORISATION

On 11 October 2006, B R Chaandrran, 45, was found guilty and convicted for abetting the unauthorised brokering of 20,000 AKMS rifles. Sentencing will be passed on 14 November 2006 at 9 am at Court 7.

2 Singapore Customs' investigations revealed that between May to September 2005, Chaandrran, who is not a registered broker with Singapore Customs, arranged for the procurement of 20,000 AKMS rifles, valued at US\$3,400,000, from a Bulgaria supplier to Syria. He was charged in the Subordinate Courts on 28 December 2005, for abetting the brokering of strategic goods<sup>1</sup> in violation of the Strategic Goods (Control) Act

3 Another person Mak Yew Loong, Colin, 30, a managing director of Protec Consulting, was also charged in conjunction with this case. Mak was sentenced to 9 months' jail on 7 July 2006.

4 Under the Act, any one who wishes to broker in strategic goods is required to be registered with Singapore Customs.

5 Any unauthorised brokering activities involving strategic goods is a violation of the SGCA and offenders stand to face severe penalties of heavy fines or imprisonment as follows:

- Up to \$100,000 fine or 3 times the value of the goods, or/and up to 2 years jail for a first offence
- Up to \$200,000 fine or 4 times the value of the goods, or/and up to 3 years jail for subsequent offences.

6 The Strategic Goods (Control) Act (SGCA) has been in force since 1 January 2003 to regulate the transfer of strategic goods. The Singapore authorities hoped that the successful prosecution of Chaandrran and Mak would send a strong and clear

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<sup>1</sup> In the context of brokering, strategic goods refer to conventional arms and military equipment. In relation to other offences, strategic goods broadly covers goods relating to the development, production and use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and also conventional arms and military equipment. These include certain "dual-use" goods that have both civilian and military applications such as certain electronic components, machine tools, cameras, lasers, cryptography software, and chemicals. Controls on brokering apply to a specified list of arms and explosives.

message to all parties that they must exercise due care and diligence if they are involved in the transfer of strategic goods.

7 Singapore Customs controls the export, transshipment, transit, brokering and intangible transfer (i.e. electronic transmission via e-mail, fax and internet) of the controlled strategic goods and technology, which could contribute towards the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, and missiles capable of delivering these weapons, under the SGCA. [For more information, please go to the Singapore Customs' strategic goods control website: <http://www.stgc.gov.sg> ]

8 Members of the public with information on illegal dealing and intangible transfer of strategic goods and technology can contact Singapore Customs Intelligence Hotline on 1800-2330000 or email to [customs\\_intelligence@customs.gov.sg](mailto:customs_intelligence@customs.gov.sg)

Singapore Customs  
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