



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ANTI TERROR LAWS

Do you support a Sri Lanka that is free from fear suspicion and politically manufactured State terror?

Knowing the destructive history of the PTA, will you listen to the call of citizens to put an end to all anti- terror laws?

Are you for a "system change?"

Given our history would you put broad powers in the hands of the police and military who are often subjected to political influence?

ANTI-TERROR LAWS GIVE ARBITRARY POWER

Vague definitions of offences curtail peoples' liberty. Even acts of writing a book, distributing leaflets, sharing social media posts, going on marches, gathering in public spaces, making speeches and running organizations can be considered terror activities.

The fate of the arrestee is completely in the hands of the police without a judge scrutinizing the reasons for arrest or any abuse of power.

Anti terror laws permit arrests and restriction of civil liberties for political reasons. This enables politicians to use the law to silence dissent, vilify opposition and punish minorities.

Anti-terror laws erode democracy, causes prolonged suffering to victims and their families. It fuels fear and suspicion, and creates divisions amongst communities.

NATIONAL PEOPLES POWER (NPP) PROMISED

"REPEAL THE PTA"

NPP promised the "abolition of all oppressive acts including the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) and ensuring the civil rights of people in all parts of the country"

(*p. 129)

"ABOLISH THE EXECUTIVE PRESIDENCY"

"ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY" in the public service

"ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY OF NATIONAL SECURITY"

*Policy statement titled Thriving Nation,
Beautiful Life, 2024

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO REPEAL THE PTA?

- ✗ No more broad and vaguely defined offences labelled as “terrorism”.
- ✗ No more police powers to arrest a person for broad and vaguely defined offences of terrorism.
- ✗ No more administrative detention.
- ✗ No more broad and vague powers for the Executive President, The Minister of Defence, police or military to restrict liberty.
- ✗ No more new laws which retain these same broad and vague offences and powers listed in the PTA with weak, strawman safeguards.



SRI LANKA HAS A FORMIDABLE ANTI TERROR FRAMEWORK **WITHOUT THE PTA**

A Strong legal Framework:

1. The Penal Code protects the State from 13 offences against the State
2. There exists at least 10 terrorism specific laws.
3. There are at least 15 other laws connected to national security
4. The State already has the power to ban individuals or organizations

A strong institutional framework

1. National Intelligence Service
2. Terrorist Investigation Division
3. Financial Unit of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka

An all-powerful public emergency law

Under the Public Security Ordinance 1948 the President can declare:
A state of Emergency, essential services, curfew and call out the army.

During periods of emergency, the President can:
Make broad laws on offences, arrests, detentions etc., subject to parliamentary oversight.

The powers under the PTA are excessive.

The PTA has been abused for over 40 years.

Arrests under the PTA leave an indelible social stigma on detainees.

A step towards reconciliation and institutional change requires **complete repeal of the PTA and saying NO to new terror laws.**

DO NOT SUPPORT

anti-terror laws that give the police, military and executive president unbridled power.

SUPPORT

the people's will for a Sri Lanka where there is no impunity, corruption or the arbitrary use of executive power



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