

INTERNAL SECURITY ACT

The Internal Security Act (ISA) allows the Government to act pre-emptively to protect Singapore from threats to our internal security, including:



International
Terrorism

Foreign
Subversion

Espionage

Acts of violence or hatred
against persons on the basis
of race or religion



One key feature of the ISA is that of **preventive detention**, which allows the Government to detain a person who poses an imminent threat to Singapore's security.



The ISA was extended to Singapore on 16 Sep 1963 from the **Malaysian Internal Security Act 1960** when Singapore became a part of Malaysia. The Act was retained in Singapore when we became independent in 1965.



Since the 11 Sep 2001 terror attacks in the United States, the ISA has mainly been used to deal with the terrorism threat facing Singapore.

The Government takes a serious view of anyone who:

- supports
- promotes
- undertakes; or
- makes preparations to undertake armed violence,

regardless of how they rationalise such violence ideologically or where the violence takes place.



Anyone who is:

- aware of a person becoming involved in terrorism-related activities such as planning or taking steps to travel to conflict zones to take part in an armed conflict, or
- who observes suspicious activities or signs of radicalisation,

SHOULD call the ISD Counter-Terrorism Centre hotline.



Public Order and Safety (Special Powers) Act 2018



The Public Order and Safety (Special Powers) Act [POSSPA] was passed in Parliament on 21 Mar 2018 and came into force on 16 May 2018. The Act provides the Police with the necessary powers to deal with serious public order and safety incidents, including terrorist attacks.

Enable the Use of Special Powers

POSSPA replaces the Public Order (Preservation) Act [POPA] to allow the Police to manage situations which seriously threaten public safety.



The Act allows Police to respond swiftly and decisively to terrorist acts and serious violence affecting the public or threats of such incidents occurring.



In serious incidents where public safety is threatened, the Minister of Home Affairs will issue the order to authorise Police to use the powers in the Act.

Enable Police to Respond to Serious Incidents More Effectively

New Provisions enable the Police to manage the safety of the public in the incident area and facilitate security operations.



Police can direct owners of buildings within incident area to take certain actions, such as closing their premises.



Police will have enhanced powers to stop and question individuals within incident area in order to obtain information.

Enable Police to Protect the Secrecy of Tactical Operations

Leaking information on on-going Police operations endangers the lives of both security forces and members of the public.



Commissioner of Police can issue an order for all persons to stop making or communicating films, pictures, text or audio messages about ongoing security operations in the incident area.



Police will be able to take down any unmanned aircraft and autonomous vehicles and vessels in the incident area.