



**PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC  
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF  
SRI LANKA**

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**PREVENTION OF TERRORISM  
(TEMPORARY PROVISIONS) (AMENDMENT)  
ACT, No. 12 OF 2022**

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[Certified on 29th of March, 2022]

*Printed on the Order of Government*

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*Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions)  
(Amendment) Act, No. 12 of 2022*

[Certified on 29th of March, 2022]

L.D.-O. 1/2022

AN ACT TO AMEND THE PREVENTION OF TERRORISM  
(TEMPORARY PROVISIONS) ACT, NO. 48 OF 1979

BE it enacted by the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as follows:-

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|---|---|--|--|
| <p><b>1.</b> This Act may be cited as the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) (Amendment) Act, No. 12 of 2022.</p> <p><b>2.</b> Section 9 of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act, No. 48 of 1979 (hereinafter referred to as the “principal enactment”) is hereby amended in the proviso to subsection (1) thereof, by the substitution for the words “eighteen months.” of the words “twelve months.”.</p> <p><b>3.</b> The following new sections are hereby inserted immediately after section 9 of the principal enactment and shall have effect as sections 9A and 9B of that enactment: -</p> | <p>Short title</p> <p>Amendment of section 9 of Act, No. 48 of 1979</p> <p>Insertion of sections 9A and 9B in the principal enactment</p> | <p>“Certified copy of the detention Order to be served on the Magistrate</p> | <p>9A. (1) The officer in charge of the place of detention shall, forthwith and in any case, not later than forty-eight hours from the time of issuance of an Order under section 9, make available a certified copy of such Order to the Magistrate within whose judicial division the place of detention of the person in respect of whom such Order relates is situated, for the Magistrate to visit such place of detention, in terms of section 9B.</p> <p>(2) The detention of any person under section 9 shall be communicated to the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka in terms of section 28 of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka Act, No. 21 of 1996, for the persons authorized by the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka to visit the place of detention in terms of that Act.</p> |
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          *(Amendment) Act, No. 12 of 2022*

Duty of the  
Magistrate to  
visit place of  
detention

9B. (1) It shall be the duty of every Magistrate who has received a certified copy of a detention Order in terms of subsection (1) of section 9A, to visit the place of detention of the person to whom the Order relates (in this section referred to as the “suspect”) at least once in every month during the period of detention, to ensure that the suspect is protected to the extent provided for in the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhumane or degrading Treatment or Punishment Act, No.22 of 1994.

(2) For the purpose of subsection (1), the Magistrate who visits any place of detention, shall—

(a) personally see the suspect, and look into his wellbeing, welfare and conditions under which he is kept at such place of detention; and

(b) record his observations and any complaint the suspect may make.

(3) Where the Magistrate is of the opinion, that the suspect may have been subjected to torture, the Magistrate may —

(a) direct that the suspect be produced before a Judicial Medical Officer for medical examination, and a report be submitted to him by such Judicial Medical Officer; and

(b) make an order to change the place of detention of the suspect.

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(4) Where the report of such Judicial Medical Officer reveals that the suspect has been subjected to torture, the Magistrate shall make an appropriate order, to provide necessary medical treatment to the suspect.

(5) The Magistrate shall also direct the Inspector General of Police to commence an investigation into the alleged torture in order to enable the Attorney-General to institute criminal proceedings against the person who is alleged to have committed the torture.”.

**4.** Section 10 of the principal enactment is hereby repealed and the following section is substituted therefor:-

Replacement of  
section 10 of  
the principal  
enactment

“Order under section 9 to be final 10. An Order made under section 9 shall be final and shall not be called in question in any proceedings or in any court of law, save and except in proceedings under Article 126,140 or 141 of the Constitution.”.

**5.** The following new section is hereby inserted immediately after section 10 of the principal enactment and shall have effect as section 10A of that enactment:-

Insertion of  
section 10A in  
the principal  
enactment

“An Attorney- at- Law to have access to a person in remand or in detention 10A. (1) An Attorney- at- Law representing a person remanded or detained under this Act, shall have the right of access to such person and to make representations on behalf of such person, subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by regulations made under this Act or as provided for in other written law.

(2) A person remanded or detained under this Act shall have the right to communicate with his relatives, as provided for in written law.”.

Amendment of  
section 11 of the  
principal  
enactment

(1) by the insertion immediately after subsection (1) thereof, of the following subsections:-

(1B) An Order made under subsection (1) shall be served on the person to whom the Order relates, by the Magistrate in whose judicial division such person resides and the report of the Judicial Medical Officer referred to in subsection (1A) shall be produced before the Magistrate to ensure that such person has not been subjected to torture before serving such Order on such person.

(a) make an appropriate order to provide necessary medical treatment to such person; and

(1D) The Magistrate shall also direct the Inspector General of Police to commence an investigation into the alleged torture in order to enable the Attorney-General to institute criminal proceedings against the person who is alleged to have committed the torture.”.

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(2) in the proviso to subsection (3) thereof, by the substitution for the words “eighteen months.” of the words “twelve months.”;

(3) by the repeal of subsection (5) thereof and the substitution therefor of the following subsection:-

“(5) An Order made by the Minister under subsection (1) shall be final and shall not be called in question in any proceedings or in any court of law, save and except in proceedings under Article 126, 140 or 141 of the Constitution.”.

**7.** Section 14 of the principal enactment is hereby repealed.

Repeal of section 14 of the principal enactment

**8.** Section 15 of the principal enactment is hereby amended by the addition immediately after subsection (2) thereof, of the following new subsection:-

Amendment of section 15 of the principal enactment

“(3) Every trial under this Act shall be held on a day to day basis, unless in the opinion of the court exceptional circumstances warrant postponement of the commencement or continuation of trial, for reasons which shall be recorded by court.”.

**9.** Section 15A of the principal enactment is hereby amended in subsection (1) thereof, by the substitution for the words and figures “section 19(a)”, of the word and figure “section 19”.

Amendment of section 15A of the principal enactment

**10.** The following new section is hereby inserted immediately after section 15A of the principal enactment and shall have effect as section 15B of that enactment:-

Insertion of new section 15B in the principal enactment

6      *Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions)*  
          *(Amendment) Act, No. 12 of 2022*

“Grant of  
bail to  
persons in  
remand or in  
detention

15B. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the provisions of this Act, if the trial against a person remanded or detained under this Act has not commenced after the expiration of twelve months, from the date of arrest, the Court of Appeal may release such person on bail, upon an application in that behalf, made by the suspect or an Attorney-at-Law on his behalf:

Provided however, notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (2) of section 15, the High Court may in exceptional circumstances release the suspect on bail subject to such conditions as the High Court may deem fit:

Provided further, where the trial against an accused in respect of whom the indictment has been forwarded and filed in the High Court, has not commenced after the expiration of twelve months from the date of such filing, the High Court may consider to release such person on bail, upon an application in that behalf made by the accused or an Attorney-at-Law on his behalf.”.

Replacement of  
section 19 of  
the principal  
enactment

**11.** Section 19 of the principal enactment is hereby repealed and the following section is substituted therefor:-

“Provisions  
of any  
written law  
relating to  
the grant of  
bail not to  
apply to  
persons  
accused of  
any offence  
under this  
Act

19. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other written law, every person convicted by any court of any offence under this Act shall, notwithstanding that he has lodged a petition of appeal against his conviction or the sentence imposed on him, be kept on remand until the determination of the appeal:

Provided however, that the Court of Appeal may in exceptional circumstances release on bail any such person subject to such conditions as the Court of Appeal may deem fit .”.

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**12.** Section 26 of the principal enactment is hereby repealed and the following section is substituted therefor:-

Replacement  
of section 26  
of the  
principal  
enactment

“Protection  
of officers  
&c.

26. (1) An Order made or direction given under this Act may be questioned in proceedings under Article 126, 140 or 141 of the Constitution.

(2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (1), no suit, prosecution or other proceeding, civil or criminal, shall lie against any officer or person for any act or thing done in good faith in pursuance of any Order made or direction given under this Act.”.

**13.** Section 31 of the principal enactment is hereby amended as follows:-

Amendment of  
section 31 of the  
principal  
enactment

- (1) by the repeal of the definition of the expression “newspaper”;
- (2) by the repeal of the definition of the expression “printing press”; and
- (3) by the insertion immediately after the definition “specified person” of the following definition:-

“ “torture” shall have the same meaning assigned to such expression under the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhumane or degrading Treatment or Punishment Act, No.22 of 1994;”.

**14.** In the event of any inconsistency between the Sinhala and Tamil texts of this Act, the Sinhala text shall prevail.

Sinhala text to  
prevail in case  
of inconsistency



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GOVERNMENT PRINTING, NO. 118, DR. DANISTER DE SILVA MAWATHA, COLOMBO 8.