

Counter-Terrorism Bill / regulations — post-PTA architecture

The post-PTA counter-terrorism legislative architecture, tracked by the ICJ, Amnesty, HRW and the UN Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism.

The Sri Lankan government has repeatedly proposed counter-terrorism legislation intended to replace the 1979 Prevention of Terrorism Act, including the 2018 Counter-Terrorism Bill, the 2023 Anti-Terrorism Bill and successor drafts. Each iteration has been the subject of substantive critique from the ICJ, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism. The PTA itself has remained on the statute book throughout.

§1 What is being replaced

The PTA 1979 — the foundational provision allowing administrative detention without charge for renewable 18-month periods — has been the principal target. Successor bills have variously preserved, modified or expanded core PTA powers. The 2022 PTA amendment narrowed some powers but, in the ICJ's published assessment, did not bring the statute into line with Sri Lanka's ICCPR obligations.

§2 Where this sits

The successor-legislation track sits alongside continuing PTA detentions, the Online Safety Act 2024, and the continuous emergency-regulation architecture. The /case/ organ reads this as a single statutory ecosystem rather than as discrete acts.

Sources

- [icj-pta](#)
- [amnesty-pta](#)
- [hrw-pta-2022](#)
- [un-srt-srilanka-2017](#)

What this is not

- This page does not name PTA detainees or their families.
- This page does not aggregate detention figures in TLTE voice.