

The Terrorism Prevention Act

Fails to conform to the fundamental rights and freedoms in Chapter III of the Constitution of Jamaica;

Subverts the presumption of innocence

Applies broadly to actions of Jamaican citizens in Jamaica rather than limiting its objectives to international Terrorism;

Defines "terrorism offence" too broadly and speculatively and has the potential to make "terrorists" of many citizens and entities;

Has the potential to suppress political opposition, trade unions and other civil society organisations and to make civil disobedience & protests a criminal offence;

Allows the Minister to declare persons or organizations as "listed entities" (terrorist suspects) with no immediate opportunity for them to challenge the decision;

Restricts freedom of association by creating the offence of "facilitating" terrorism;

Allows a person's property to be restrained even though that person has not been convicted of any terrorist offence;

Places excessive burdens on business in terms of making financial reports and Disclosure;

Has no date for review of the Act

"While we certainly need vigilance to prevent acts of terrorism, and firmness in condemning and punishing them, it will be self



defeating if we sacrifice other key priorities – such as human rights – in the process."

Kofi Annan, January 2002

"Any government should have to show a good case for doing anything that poses a threat to civil liberties, but in a country ...where state power has been abused for so long, that case should be especially compelling."

Editorial in a Taiwanese Newspaper November 2003

Published by

A Civil Society Partnership against the Terrorism Prevention Act

The Partnership Consists of:

Association of Women's Organizations of Jamaica (AWOJA)
Partners Against State Terrorism (PAEST)
Parliamentary Institute of Public Affairs (PIPA)
Jamaicans For Justice (JFJ)
The Human Development and Social Justice Committee
of the Archbishop of Kingston
The Independent Jamaica Council for Human Rights (IJCHR)

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A Civil Society Partnership
against the
Terrorism Prevention Act

THIS ACT MUST BE WITHDRAWN



HASTILY CONCEIVED LAWS THAT CURB CIVIL LIBERTIES DESTROY THE SOUL OF A NATION.

Please email the PAEST

What YOU need to know about the proposed Jamaican Terrorism Prevention Act

1. YOU can be charged with terrorism for the words you use and the clothes you wear. [7 (4)]
2. YOU could be imprisoned for life for taking part in street protests or demonstrations or other acts of civil Disobedience. [3 (2, 4)]



Civil demonstrations could get you locked up

3. YOU could be locked up if you don't inform the police about any person whom you suspect "...has committed", or "is likely to commit" any act of Terrorism. [12, 13]
4. YOU could be labeled a terrorist never know the evidence that is held against you. [19]
5. If a person whom YOU know or with whom you do business is branded a terrorist, you can be charged with terrorism, too, just because you are linked with the person. [7 (4)]

6. YOU could have what you own seized and not returned if you are accused of terrorism or of helping terrorists. [24]
7. A SUSPECTED PERSON OR GROUP can be charged with terrorism, whether or not an act of terrorism is actually carried out. [7]
8. YOUR BANK or CREDIT UNION or REMITTANCE AGENT will not be able to keep customer information about you confidential. [16]
9. The power of the DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS will be substantially increased without ANY checks and balances. [19, 21, 28, 29, 34, 35, 36, 43]
10. YOU will LOSE some of your HUMAN RIGHTS and FREEDOMS, as the police will be given even more power to search, seize, arrest and detain YOU without giving any reasons. [19 (1,2), 21 (4-7), 23, 24]



Your bank may have to give information on you to the Government

11. If you are accused of Terrorism a judge can hear your case in your absence and the absence of your Attorney; the judge can withhold evidence against you for security reasons. [19]
12. All the 'terrorist' offences named in this law are already punishable under present Laws, with LESSER sentences and correct Judicial procedures.



Neither you nor your lawyer may be told all the reasons why you have been called a Terrorist.

13. We are told that the proposed anti-terrorism law must be passed quickly to comply with the other UN conventions on terrorism, yet we have not signed or ratified a number of these conventions. [Memorandum of Objects and Reasons]
14. Although the United Nations has asked all countries to condemn and prevent international acts of terrorism, the U.N. states that Human Rights must be preserved. [U.N. Security Council Resolution 1373]
15. We must not agree to this law: in most other countries that have already passed such dangerous legislation, the people are now trying to get these laws repealed Or changed.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Spread the word, tell your friends, talk to your party's constituency representative, your MP, your community organization, your church group.

**LET EVERYONE KNOW THAT THIS
ACT MUST BE WITHDRAWN**