

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

Part II of September 25, 2026

SUPPLEMENT

(Issued on 30.09.2026)



**PREVENTION OF FOREIGN TERRORIST
FIGHTERS**

A

BILL

**to give effect to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2178
adopted on September 24, 2014 relating to the prevention and suppression
of the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters and to provide for matters
connected therewith or incidental thereto**

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Prevention of Foreign Terrorist Fighters

L.D. - O 28/2025

AN ACT TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY
COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2178 ADOPTED ON SEPTEMBER 24,
2014 RELATING TO THE PREVENTION AND SUPPRESSION
OF THE THREAT POSED BY FOREIGN TERRORIST FIGHTERS
AND TO PROVIDE FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH OR
INCIDENTAL THERETO.

WHEREAS United Nations Security Council Resolution Preamble
2178 (S/RES/2178(2014)) was adopted by the Security
Council under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United
Nations on the Twenty Fourth day of September Two
5 Thousand Fourteen:

AND WHEREAS the Government of Sri Lanka, being
deeply concerned by the acute and escalating threat posed
by foreign terrorist fighters operating within Sri Lanka and
abroad, is determined to take effective measures to prevent,
10 suppress, and combat such threat:

AND WHEREAS Sri Lanka being a Member State of the
United Nations since Fourteenth day of December Nineteen
Fifty Five and being bound by the obligations arising under
the Charter of the United Nations, it has become necessary
15 to make legal provisions to give effect to the provisions of
the aforesaid Resolution in Sri Lanka:

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

1. This Act may be cited as the Prevention of Foreign Short title
20 Terrorist Fighters Act, No. 2026.

PL 15926 - 460 (09/2026)

2 *Prevention of Foreign Terrorist Fighters*

2. The provisions of this Act shall apply to every person who, is a citizen of Sri Lanka or not, commits an offence under this Act, - Application of
the Act

- (a) while present in Sri Lanka; or
- 5 (b) outside Sri Lanka and such offence is an offence under the law for the time being in force, in the State or territory in which such offence is committed.

PART I

10 **Offences**

3. (1) Any citizen of Sri Lanka who travels to a State or territory other than Sri Lanka or any person who travels from the State or territory of his residence or nationality, to Sri Lanka, for the purpose of- Offences

- 15 (a) perpetration, planning, preparation of or participation in terrorist acts; or
- (b) providing or receiving terrorist training,

(in this Act referred to as a “foreign terrorist fighter”) commits an offence and shall, on conviction by the
20 High Court be liable to a fine not exceeding ten million rupees and to imprisonment of either description for a term not less than five years and not exceeding twenty years.

(2) Any person who-

- 25 (a) attempts to commit an offence under subsection (1);

(b) aids or abets in the commission of an offence under subsection (1); or

(c) conspires with another person or a group of persons to commit an offence under subsection (1),

commits an offence and such person shall be liable to the same penalty imposed for such offence under subsection (1).

PART II

General Provisions

10 4. The High Court of Sri Lanka holden in Colombo or the High Court established under Article 154p of the Constitution for the Western Province, holden in Colombo, shall, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any other law, have exclusive jurisdiction to try offences under this Act.

5. The provisions of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act, No. 48 of 1979 or any written law in force for the time being, replacing the said Act shall *mutatis mutandis* apply in relation to investigation, arrest and detention of persons and grant of bail in relation to offences committed under this Act.

6. Where a person who is not a citizen of Sri Lanka is arrested on suspicion of having committed an offence under this Act, such person shall be entitled-

25 (a) to communicate without delay, with the appropriate representative of the State of which he is a national or which is otherwise entitled to

High Court to try offences under this Act

Provisions of Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary provisions) Act to apply in respect of investigations, arrest & c.

Rights of certain persons arrested for offences under this Act

4 *Prevention of Foreign Terrorist Fighters*

protect his rights, or if he is a stateless person,
with the nearest appropriate representative of the
State in the territory of which he was habitually
resident;

- 5 (b) to be visited by a representative of that State;
 and
- (c) to be informed of his rights under paragraphs (a)
 and (b).

7. The provisions of the Convention on the Suppression
10 of Terrorist Financing Act, No. 25 of 2005 shall
 mutatis mutandis apply in relation to freezing and seizure
 and forfeiture of property in relation to offences committed
 under this Act.

Provisions of
Convention
on the
Suppression
of Terrorist
Financing
Act to apply
in relation to
freezing &c.
of property

8. The Extradition Law, No. 8 of 1977 is hereby amended
15 in the Schedule to that Law, by the insertion immediately
 before Part B of that Schedule, of the following item: -

Amendment
of Extradition
Law, No. 8 of
1977

“() an offence within the meaning of the Prevention of
Foreign Terrorist Fighters Act, No. of 2026.”.

9. Where there is an extradition arrangement made by
20 the Government of Sri Lanka with any Member State of the
United Nations (hereinafter referred to as a “UN Member
State”) in force on the date on which this Act comes into
operation, such arrangement shall be deemed, for the
purposes of the Extradition Law, No. 8 of 1977, to include
25 provision for extradition in respect of the offences specified
in this Act.

Existing
extradition
arrangements
with UN
Member
States deemed
to provide for
offences in the
Act

10. Where a request is made to the Government of Sri Lanka, by or on behalf of the Government of a UN Member State for the extradition of any person accused or convicted of an offence specified in this Act, the Minister shall, on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka, forthwith notify the Government of the requesting State of the measures which the Government of Sri Lanka has taken, or proposes to take, for the prosecution or extradition of that person for that offence.
- Minister to notify requesting State, of measures taken against persons for whose extradition request is made
11. Notwithstanding anything in the Extradition Law, No. 8 of 1977, an offence specified in Part B of the Schedule to that Law and this Act shall, for the purposes of that Law, be deemed not to be an offence of a political character or an offence connected with a political offence or an offence inspired by political motives, for the purposes only of extradition of any person accused or convicted of any such offence, as between the Government of Sri Lanka and any UN Member State or of affording assistance to a UN Member State under section 12.
- Offences under this Act deemed not to be political offence &c., for the purposes of the Extradition Law
12. The provisions of the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act, No. 25 of 2002 shall, for the purpose of investigation and prosecution of an offence under this Act, apply in respect of providing assistance to any country or intergovernmental organization as declared under that Act.
- Assistance to a country
13. (1) Where an offence under this Act is committed by a body of persons, then, if that body of persons is-
- Offences by body of persons
- (a) a body corporate, every director, or other officer of that body corporate;
 - (b) a firm, every partner of that firm; or
 - (c) an unincorporated body other than a firm, every individual who is a member of such body and

every officer of that body responsible for its management and control,

commits an offence:

5 Provided however, that no such person shall be deemed to have committed an offence if he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he exercised all due diligence to prevent the commission of the offence.

(2) Any person who commits an offence under this section shall, on conviction by the High Court, be liable to a fine not exceeding ten million rupees and to imprisonment for a term not less than five years and not exceeding twenty years.

14. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires- Interpretation

15 “Minister” means, the Minister to whom the implementation of this Act has been assigned under Article 44 or 45 of the Constitution;

“person” means, an individual, group of individuals, an association, organization or body of persons whether corporate or unincorporated within or outside Sri Lanka;

20 “terrorist” means, any person who-

- (a) directly or indirectly and willfully commits or attempts to commit a terrorist act;
- 25 (b) participates as an accomplice in committing a terrorist act;
- (c) organizes, directs or aids or abets the commission of a terrorist act;

5 (d) contributes to the commission of a terrorist act by a group of persons acting with a common purpose where the contribution is made intentionally and with the aim of furthering the terrorist act or with the knowledge of the intention of the group to commit a terrorist act; or

(e) is a foreign terrorist fighter;

“terrorist act” means -

10 (a) an act which constitutes an offence within the scope of or within the definition of any one of the Treaties specified in Schedule to this Act;

15 (b) any other act intended to cause death or serious bodily injury, to civilians or to any other person not taking an active part in the hostilities, in a situation of armed conflict or otherwise and the purpose of such act, by its nature or context is to intimidate a population, or to compel
20 a government or an international organization, to do or to abstain from doing any act; or

(c) the use or threat of action-

25 (i) which is designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public or a section of the public; and

30 (ii) which is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological purpose,

and such action,-

- (aa) involves serious violence against a person;
- (bb) involves serious damage to property;
- 5 (cc) endangers the life of another person, other than the person committing the action;
- (dd) creates a serious risk to health or safety of the public or a
10 section of the public; or
- (ee) is designed seriously to interfere with or seriously to disrupt an electronic system.

15 **15.** 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

SCHEDULE

[section 14]

1. The Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, done at the Hague on December 16, 1970.
2. The Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, done at Montreal on September 23, 1971.
3. The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 14, 1973.

4. The International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 17, 1979.
5. The Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, adopted at Vienna on March 3, 1980.
6. The Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports serving International Civil Aviation, Supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, done at Montreal on February 24, 1988.
7. Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, done at Rome on March 10, 1988.
8. The Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms located on the Continental Shelf, done at Rome on March 10, 1988.
9. International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 15, 1997.

