

Media Advisory

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Sri Lanka: Detrimental effect of emergency regulations on human rights

An increase in torture, "disappearances" and deaths in custody have been reported in Sri Lanka since new emergency regulations were introduced by the President in May 2000. Amnesty International is concerned that wider powers given to the security forces under these emergency regulations may have contributed to the increase. The regulations confer powers of arrest to "any authorized person" in addition to the police and armed forces, and considerably extends their powers to detain.

Amnesty International today released a report entitled "Sri Lanka: New emergency regulations -- erosion of human rights protection". In particular, the report highlights the removal of several safeguards against arbitrary arrest and detention and the danger this poses for the safety of detainees.

The report is available online at www.amnesty.org

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For more information or to arrange an interview please call Amnesty International's press office in London, UK, on +44 20 7413 5566/5729

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