



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL INDIA

NEWS FLASH

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Ban on public screening of No Fire Zone violates right to free speech

The Indian film censor board's decision to refuse certification for theatrical release to the documentary film 'No Fire Zone' is a setback for freedom of expression in India.

The film exposes atrocities committed during the final months of the Sri Lankan war in 2009. It is the third production on the subject by filmmaker Callum Macrae, who made the award-winning 'Sri Lanka's Killing Fields' and 'War Crimes Unpunished'. 'No Fire Zone' was screened privately in India in 2013.

In enforcing this ban, India risks undoing steps it has taken to support accountability processes in Sri Lanka, including making recommendations to the UN Human Rights Council for "an independent and credible investigation into allegations of human rights violations and loss of civilian lives" which is "to the satisfaction of the international community". The ban undermines the right to freedom of expression, which includes the right to receive information of all kinds.

Amnesty International India calls on the film censor board and Government of India to swiftly remove the restrictions on the public screening of 'No Fire Zone' and uphold the fundamental human right to free speech.

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