

# URGENT ACTION

## ACTIVIST FINED FOR SCREENING DOCUMENTARY

**Human Rights Defender Lena Hendry was fined RM10,000 (USD 2,260) by the Kuala Lumpur Magistrates Court on 22 March 2017 for the private screening of a human rights documentary about Sri Lanka. However no prison sentence was imposed.**

**Lena Hendry** was arrested, detained and tried for violating Section 6 of the Film Censorship Act of 2002 after screening a human rights documentary titled 'No Fire Zone: The Killing Fields of Sri Lanka'. On 22 March 2017 the Kuala Lumpur Magistrates Court found her guilty of the "circulation, distribution, display, production, sale hire or possession" of film material that the government-appointed, Board of Censors had not approved.

Lena Hendry was facing a maximum three year prison sentence but instead was made to pay a RM 10,000 fine. She had to pay in full on the same day, on 22 March 2017, facing a one year jail term if she had failed to do so. Despite the strict condition set by the Magistrates Court, she has paid the amount in full and has since been released. She will continue her work as a human rights activist, focusing on voter registration, education, and awareness.

Amnesty International remains concerned about the wide, arbitrary powers granted to the Film Censorship Board under the Film Censorship Act and the manner in which it is being used to silence peaceful human rights defenders and undermine their work. For more information please see Amnesty International's [public statement](#), issued on 23 March.

**No further action is requested from the UA network at this point. Many thanks to all those who sent appeals.**

This is the first update of UA 57/17 Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa28/5827/2017/en/>

Name: Lena Hendry  
Gender m/f: f

Further information on UA: 57/17 Index: ASA 28/5985/2017 Issue Date: 29 March 2017

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