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August 24, 2022

**Call for the repeal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA)**

An island-wide signature campaign commenced earlier this year calling for the repeal of the draconian Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) brought in 1979 as a temporary provisions Act for six months but continues to be in operation for over 40years. During this period, we have witnessed its use to crush dissent against the government of the day, as it has been done consistently in the past and continues today. Most recently detention orders under the PTA were issued to detain three protesters and with sending a chilling message against those who were part of the Aragalaya and critics of the government.

The government has given several assurances in the past that this legislation will be repealed and a law enacted in its place that complies with international human rights standards and norms. The amendment to the PTA enacted this year fails to address the draconian provisions in the PTA. The failures at genuine reforms and the continued use of the PTA is extremely worrying. It is in such a context that we recommence the signature campaign calling for the repeal of the PTA.

Please join us at a press conference in this regard on **Thursday August 25th at 11am at the Public Library.**

Thank you

M A Sumanthiran

Convenor