Abolish Singapore's Internal Security Act

废除新加坡内部安全法令

We welcome Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak's announcement that his government would repeal the Internal Security Act (ISA) and the Emergency Ordinance. He said the changes are aimed at "having a modern, mature and functioning democracy which will continue to preserve public order, ensure greater civil liberties and maintain racial harmony." We look forward to the Malaysian Prime Minister fulfilling his promise to his people.

我们欢迎马来西亚首相纳吉拉萨宣称其政府将撤销内部安全法令(简称 ISA)和紧急法令。纳吉说这项变化旨在"拥有一个现代的、成熟的民主运作,以便继续维护公共秩序、保证更大公民自由以及维持种族和谐"。我们期待马来西亚首相纳吉实现他对人民的承诺。

Singapore inherited the ISA from Malaysia. This law has been in existence for more than half a century and its impact on society is both crippling and pernicious. Its life began soon after the Second World War as the Emergency Regulations in 1948 when the British used it to put down strong anti-colonial movements. In 1955, the Preservation of Public Security Ordinance incorporating the Emergency Regulations was passed. When Singapore joined Malaysia in 1963, the Federation of Malaya's Internal Security Act 1960 became part of our law。

新加坡是从马来(西)亚继承它的内部安全法令。这项法令已经存在了超过半个世纪,而对社会所造成的是残废和致命伤害的严重后果。这项法令源于二战之后 1948 年实施的紧急法令,英国人(殖民主义者)用它来镇压强大的反殖民主义运动。保存着紧急法令内容的公共安全法令,是在 1955 年通过的。在 1963年当新加坡加入马来西亚时,马来亚联合邦的 1960 年内部安全法令,就成为我们(新加坡)的法律的组成部分。

The Ministry of Home Affairs claims that:

" ... A person arrested under the ISA in Singapore may be held in custody for 30 days after which an Order of Detention or Restriction Order must be issued or else the up to person must be released unconditionally.

In Malaysia, the period of custody is up to 60 days…" (ST 17.9.2011).

新加坡内政部宣称:

"在新加坡,一个在内部安全法令下被逮捕的人士"可被拘留最多 30 天, 此后 必须发出拘留令或限制令,或其他如无条件释放。"

"在马来西亚,拘留期是高达60天。"(见2011年9月17日《海峡时报》)

This comparison is irrelevant because political detainees in Singapore have been imprisoned for periods which far exceed those in Malaysia. Dr Chia Thye Poh was imprisoned for 26 years. Dr Lim Hock Siew was imprisoned for 20 years. Mr Lee Tee Tong was imprisoned for 18 years and Dr Poh Soo Kai and Inche Said Zahari for 17 years.

这样的比较是不恰当的,因为在新加坡的政治扣留者被监禁的时期,远远长过在马来西亚的政治扣留者被监禁的时期。谢太宝博士被关了26年,林福寿医生被关了20年,李思东被关了18年,傅树楷医生与赛扎哈里先生被关了17年。

The Ministry further claims that the Advisory Board is a safeguard against abuse under the ISA. The protection accorded by the Advisory Board is spurious, if not a farce. Several of us have appeared before such a board and can confirm that the board did not examine witnesses and evidence against the detainee. In 1987, appearances before the board lasted not more than a few minutes each. Furthermore, detainees were discouraged from appearing before the board by ISD officers. Many were advised that appearing before the board would jeopardise their chances of early release.

内政部进一步声称,咨询委员会(即所谓"上诉委员会")是一项在内内安法令下防止滥用权力的保障。咨询委员会所给予被拘留者的保护是欺骗性的,只不过是一场闹剧。我们之中的一些人,曾经向这个咨询委员会上诉过,但是,可以确认这个委员会并不会去盘问证人及审查指控的证据。在1987年,每个上诉过程费时不过几分钟,而且内安局官员往往阻碍或打击被扣者进行上诉,许多被扣者都告知,若上诉必将危害他们早日获得释放的机会。

Singapore has many existing laws that will deal with acts of terrorism. We have the Penal Code, the Sedition Act, Corrosive and Explosive Substances and Offensive Weapons Act, Vandalism Act and after 9/11, the Terrorism (Suppression of Bombings) Act and the Terrorism (Suppression of Financing) Act. These laws provide severe punishments which include death, life imprisonment and caning.

新加坡已有许多现行法律用以应对恐怖主义行为,诸如刑事法令,煽动法令,腐蚀性与爆炸性物质与攻击性武器法令,破坏行动法令,以及911后防止恐怖主义(制止爆炸事件)与(制止资助恐怖主义)法令。这些法令提供严厉的处罚包括死刑、终身监禁以及鞭笞。

In 1991, then Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said, "Singapore will seriously consider abolishing the Internal Security Act if Malaysia were to do so". He made this response to seven Malaysian journalists in his office when asked why the ISA was still needed in Singapore even though the Communist Party of Malaya no longer posed a threat. (ST 3.2.1991.) Now that Malaysia is repealing the ISA, we call upon PM Lee Hsien Loong to translate — his 1991 statement into reality and keep in step with the aspirations of our people for a mature and functioning democracy. Indefinite detention without trial is an affront to the human rights of citizens and an assault on our justice system.

在 1991年,时任副总理李显龙曾说,"新加坡将认真考虑废除内部安全法令,如果马来西亚这样做。"这是李显龙当时在其办公室,针对 7 名马来西亚新闻从业员提问"马来亚共产党已经不再构成威胁,为何新加坡还需要内部安全法令?"所作出的回应(见 1991年 2月 3日《海峡时报》)。现在,马来西亚正在撤销内部安全法令,我们呼吁李显龙总理把他在 1991年的声明,转化成为现实,配合人民的愿望,走向一个成熟的民主运作。未经审讯的无限期扣留是一项对公民人权的公然侵犯,同时也是一项对国家司法系统的破坏。

Dated this 19th day of September 2011. Dr Lim Hock Siew 林福寿医生 Dr Poh Soo Kai 傅树楷医生 Said Zahari 赛扎哈里 Lee Tee Tong 李思东 Loh Miaw Gong 卢妙萍 Chng Min Oh @ Chuang Men-Hu 莊明湖 Tan Sin alias Tan Seng Hin 陈辛 Toh Ching Kee 卓清枝 Koh Kay Yew 许庚犹 Vincent Cheng Kim Chuan 钟金全 Teo Soh Lung 張素兰 Yap Hon Ngian 叶汉源 Tan Tee Seng 陈智成 Low Yit Leng 刘月玲 Wong Souk Yee 黄淑仪

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