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GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

ACTS SUPPLEMENT

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The following Act was passed by Parliament on 16th August 2010 and assented to by the President on 31st August 2010:—

HOSTAGE-TAKING ACT 2010

(No. 19 of 2010)

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

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-

REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

No. 19 of 2010.

I assent.



S R NATHAN,
President.
31st August 2010.

An Act to give effect to the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages and for matters connected therewith and to make consequential amendments to the Banking Act (Chapter 19 of the 2008 Revised Edition), the Penal Code (Chapter 224 of the 2008 Revised Edition) and the Road Vehicles (Special Powers) Act (Chapter 277 of the 2007 Revised Edition).

Be it enacted by the President with the advice and consent of the Parliament of Singapore, as follows:

Short title and commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the Hostage-Taking Act 2010 and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by notification in the *Gazette*, appoint.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

“bank” means —

- (a) a bank licensed under the Banking Act (Cap. 19); or
- (b) a merchant bank that is approved as a financial institution under section 28 of the Monetary Authority of Singapore Act (Cap. 186),

and includes a finance company licensed under the Finance Companies Act (Cap. 108);

“Convention” means the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 17th December 1979;

“Convention country” means a foreign country that is a Party to the Convention;

“country” includes a State or territory, as the case may be;

“hostage-taking offence” means —

- (a) the offence under section 3; or
- (b) an abetment of, or a conspiracy or attempt to commit, the offence under section 3.

Hostage-taking

3.—(1) Whoever —

- (a) seizes or detains any person; and
- (b) threatens to cause death or hurt to such person or to continue to detain such person, or by his conduct gives rise to a reasonable apprehension that such person may be put to

death or hurt or may continue to be detained, or causes death or hurt to such person,

in order to compel —

- (i) the Government, the government of another State or an international intergovernmental organisation to do or abstain from doing any act shall be guilty of an offence, and shall be punished with death or imprisonment for life, and shall, if he is not sentenced to death, also be liable to fine or to caning; or
- (ii) any other person to do or abstain from doing any act shall be guilty of an offence, and shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to 15 years, and shall also be liable to fine or to caning.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to any act which is an offence under section 3 of the Geneva Conventions Act (Cap. 117).

Extra-territoriality

4. Every person who, outside Singapore, commits an act that, if committed in Singapore, would constitute a hostage-taking offence is deemed to commit the act in Singapore and may be proceeded against, charged, tried and punished accordingly.

Information relating to hostage-taking offence

5.—(1) Every person in Singapore who has information which he knows or believes may be of material assistance —

- (a) in preventing the commission by another person of a hostage-taking offence; or
- (b) in securing the apprehension, prosecution or conviction of another person, in Singapore, for a hostage-taking offence,

and who fails to disclose the information immediately to a police officer shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years or to both.