



## THE SURRENDER OF ILLICIT ARMS ACT, 1991



### CONTENTS

---

1	Short title, extent and commencement
2	Definitions
3	Act not to derogate from other laws
4	Surrender of illicit arms
5	Surrender of arms, etc, by persons on visit abroad
6	Publicity for surrender of illicit arms
7	Punishments
8	Indemnity
9	Search for illicit arms, etc
10	Reward for successful recovery
11	Scrutiny of licenses, etc
12	Punishment for failure to present license for scrutiny
13	Exemption
14	Rules
15	Removal of difficulties

# SURRENDER OF ILLICIT ARMS

## <sup>1</sup>ACT NO. XXI OF 1991

*An Act to provide for the surrender of illicit arms and improvement and control of the law and order situation*

WHEREAS it is expedient in the public interest to provide for the surrender of illicit arms, improvement and control of law and order situation and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto:

It is hereby enacted as follows:—

**1. Short title, extent and commencement.**—(1) This Act may be called the Surrender of Illicit Arms Act, 1991.

(2) It extends to the whole of Pakistan.

(3) It shall come into force in such areas and on such date as the Federal Government may, on recommendation of the respective Provincial Governments, by notification in the official Gazette appoint; and different date may be so appointed in respect of different areas.

**2. Definitions.** —(1) In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

(a) “illicit arms” includes—

- (i) cannon as defined in the Pakistan Arms Ordinance, 1965 (W.P. Ordinance No. [XX of 1965](#)), excluding sub-machine guns and their silencers revolvers or pistols of over 46 inches bore;
- (ii) all types of explosive substances as defined in the Explosive Substances Act, 1908 ([VI of 1908](#)), and the Explosive Act, 1884 ([IV of 1884](#)), including mines of all types;
- (iii) all types of containers, grenades bombs and shells that discharge poisonous or noxious gases or other chemicals or substances which cause damage to human body;
- (iv) fire-arms comprising automatic weapons (other than machine guns) including sub-machine guns, automatic rifles and machine pistols; and
- (v) rifles, carbines muskets, shortguns, revolvers, pistols and appliances the object of which is the silencing of fire-arms and all other fire-arms not included in sub-clause (iv).

---

<sup>1</sup> This Act shall come into force in the Karachi Division (w.e.f. 24-8-95) vide S.R.O. No. 841 (I)/95, dt. 24-8-95.

which are held or possessed in contravention of the provisions of the Arms Act, 1878 ([XI of 1878](#)), the Explosives [Act, 1884](#), the Explosive Substances Act, 1908, ([IV of 1908](#)), the Pakistan Arms Act, 1965, (W.P. [Ord. XX of 1965](#)), or any other law for the time being in force;

(b) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act.

(2) The Federal Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, declare any article, substance, arms, ammunition or military stores not specified hereinbefore which is held or possessed in contravention of any law as illicit arms, ammunition or explosives, for the purpose of this Act.

**3. Act not to derogate from other laws.** The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of, any other law for the time being in force, and nothing contained herein shall exempt any person from any proceedings which may be instituted against him under such law.

**4. Surrender of illicit arms.**— <sup>1</sup>[(1) On the commencement of the Act, all] persons in possession or control of any illicit arms shall surrender such arms to the <sup>1</sup>[District Co-ordination Officer, Deputy District Officer (Revenue)] or officer-in-charge of a police station within whose jurisdiction such persons ordinarily reside or to such other authority as may be specified by the Federal Government by notification in the official Gazette.

(2) The authority receiving any illicit arms shall issue a receipt for the same.

**5. Surrender of arms, etc., by persons on visit abroad.** A person on a lawful visit abroad at the commencement of this Act shall, within <sup>2</sup>[sixty days] of his return to Pakistan, through an authorized route or port of entry surrender and deposit and deposit all illicit arms in his possession or control to one of the authorities specified in section 4.

**6. Publicity for surrender of illicit arms.**—(1) The Federal Government and the Provincial Government shall give wide publicity to the provisions of this Act on the media, including television, radio, national and regional press, in Urdu, English and regional languages or by any other mode as may be prescribed.

(2) There shall be publicly displayed a count-down of every expired day of the period allowed for surrender of illicit arms under this Act and the number of days left for such surrender.

**7. Punishments.**— (1) Whoever contravenes the provisions of section 4 or section 5 or fails to surrender illicit arms shall,—

---

<sup>1</sup>Subs. by Ord. 66 of 01, s. 2 & Sch.

<sup>2</sup>Subs. & deemed always to have been so subs. *ibid*