



THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

**HIJACKING OF AIRCRAFT AND
PROTECTION OF AIRCRAFT AND
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS ACT 1978**

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Hijacking of Aircraft and Protection of Aircraft and International Airports Act 1978

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An Act to give effect to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft signed at The Hague on 16 December 1970, the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation signed at Montreal on 23 September 1971 and the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation signed at Montreal on 24 February 1988, and for purposes connected therewith.

[8 April 1978]

Short title

1. This Act is the Hijacking of Aircraft and Protection of Aircraft and International Airports Act 1978.

Interpretation

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

“act of violence” means —

- (a) an act done in Singapore which constitutes the offence of murder, attempted murder, culpable homicide not amounting to murder, voluntarily causing grievous hurt, voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons or means, or an offence under —
 - (i) section 4 of the Arms Offences Act 1973;
 - (ii) section 3 or 4 of the Corrosive and Explosive Substances and Offensive Weapons Act 1958;
 - (iii) section 3 or 4 of the Explosive Substances Act 1924; or
 - (iv) section 3 of the Kidnapping Act 1961; and
- (b) an act done outside Singapore which, if done in Singapore, would constitute an offence mentioned in paragraph (a);

“aerodrome” has the meaning given by the Air Navigation Act 1966;

“landing” includes alighting on water;

“military service” includes naval and air force service;

“unlawfully”, in relation to the commission of an act —

- (a) in Singapore, means an offence that is (apart from this Act) constituted under any written law in force in Singapore; and
- (b) outside Singapore, means the commission of the act that would (apart from this Act) have been an offence under any written law in force in Singapore had it been committed in Singapore.

(2) For the purposes of this Act —

- (a) the period during which an aircraft is in flight is deemed to include any period from the moment when all its external doors are closed following embarkation until the moment when any such door is opened for disembarkation, and, in the case of a forced landing, any period until the competent authorities take over responsibility for the aircraft and for persons and property on board; and
- (b) an aircraft is taken to be in service during the whole of the period which begins with the pre-flight preparation of the aircraft for a flight and ends 24 hours after the aircraft lands having completed that flight, and also at any time (not falling within that period) while, in accordance with paragraph (a), the aircraft is in flight.

Hijacking

3.—(1) Subject to subsection (2), a person on board an aircraft in flight who unlawfully, by the use of force or by threats of any kind, seizes the aircraft or exercises control of it commits the offence of hijacking, whatever his or her nationality or citizenship, whatever the State in which the aircraft is registered and whether the aircraft is in Singapore or elsewhere.

(2) If the aircraft is used in military, customs or police service, subsection (1) does not apply unless —

- (a) the person seizing or exercising control of the aircraft is a citizen of Singapore;
- (b) his or her act is committed in or over Singapore; or
- (c) the aircraft is used in the military, customs or police service of the Republic of Singapore.

(3) A person who commits the offence of hijacking shall be guilty of an offence.