



THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

HOSTAGE-TAKING ACT 2010

2020 REVISED EDITION

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Hostage-Taking Act 2010

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An Act to give effect to the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages and for matters connected therewith.

[21 November 2010]

Short title

1. This Act is the Hostage-Taking Act 2010.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —
 - “bank” means a bank or merchant bank licensed under the Banking Act 1970, and includes a finance company licensed under the Finance Companies Act 1967;
 - “Convention” means the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 17 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.

[1/2020]

Hostage-taking

3.—(1) Any person (*A*) who —

- (a) seizes or detains another person (*B*); and
- (b) threatens to cause death or hurt to *B* or to continue to detain *B*, or by *A*’s conduct gives rise to a reasonable apprehension that *B* may be put to death or hurt or may continue to be detained, or causes death or hurt to *B*,

in order to compel —

- (c) 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 *A* is not sentenced to death, also be liable to fine or to caning; or
- (d) any other person (*C*) 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 1973.

Extraterritoriality

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 or she 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.

(2) No criminal or civil proceedings shall lie against a person for any disclosure made in good faith under this section.

(3) A person who makes a disclosure in good faith under this section is not to be treated as being in breach of any restriction upon the disclosure of information imposed by law, contract or rules of professional conduct.

Power to freeze bank account

6.—(1) The Public Prosecutor may, where he or she is satisfied that it is likely that the money for the payment of ransom for the release of any person may be paid out of any account with any bank, by order direct any bank not to pay any money out of, nor to pay cheques drawn on, such account for a specified period not exceeding one month.

(2) A bank which complies with an order under subsection (1) is relieved of any liability to any other person in respect of the payment prohibited by that order.

(3) A bank which fails to comply with an order under subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$20,000.