

PARLIAMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC

SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF

SRI LANKA

OFFICE ON MISSING PERSONS

(ESTABLISHMENT, ADMINISTRATION AND

DISCHARGE OF FUNCTIONS)

ACT, No. 14 OF 2016

[Certified on 23rd August, 2016]

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Office on Missing Persons (Establishment, 1

Administration and Discharge of Functions)

Act, No. 14 of 2016

[Certified on 23rd August, 2016]

L.D.O- 32/2016

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE ON MISSING

PERSONS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE SEARCHING AND TRACING OF MISSING

PERSONS; TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO RELATIVES OF MISSING

PERSONS; FOR THE SETTING UP OF ADATABASE OF MISSING PERSONS;

FOR SETTING OUT THE PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES APPLICABLE

TO THE POWERS AND FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED TO THE SAID OFFICE; AND

TO PROVIDE FOR ALL MATTERS WHICH ARE CONNECTED WITH

OR INCIDENTAL TO, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF

THIS ACT.

WHEREAS there have been incidents of missing persons Preamble

including those missing as victims of abduction, persons

missing in action or otherwise missing in connection with

armed conflicts, political unrest and civil disturbances:

AND WHEREAS relatives of missing persons are entitled to

know the circumstances in which such persons went missing,

and the fate and whereabouts of such missing persons:

AND WHEREAS it is recognised that the establishment of

an Office on Missing Persons is necessary to take all

necessary measures to search and trace missing persons; to

protect the rights and interests of missing persons and their

relatives; and towards ensuring non-recurrence:

NOW THEREFORE BE it enacted by the Parliament of the

Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as follows:-

1. (1) This Act may be cited as the Office on Missing Short title and

Persons (Establishment, Administration and Discharge of date of

operation.

Functions) Act, No. 14 of 2016.

2—PL 010032—3061 (06/2016)

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(2) The provisions of this Act shall come into operation

on such date as the Minister may appoint, by Order published

in the Gazette (hereinafter referred to as the ‘appointed date’).

Objectives of the 2. The objectives of the Office on Missing Persons

Act. (Establishment, Administration and Discharge of

Functions) Act is to ensure that all necessary measures are

taken –

(a) to provide appropriate mechanisms for searching

and tracing of missing persons, and to clarify the

circumstances in which such persons went missing,

and their fate ;

(b) to make recommendations to the relevant authorities

towards reducing the incidents of ‘missing persons’

within the meaning of this Act;

(c) to protect the rights and interests of missing persons

and their relatives as provided for in this Act;

(d) to identify proper avenues of redress to which such

missing persons or their relatives may have recourse.

PART I

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE ON MISSING PERSONS

Establishment of 3. (1) There shall be established an Office which shall

the Office on

be called and known as the “Office on Missing Persons”

Missing Persons

(OMP). (hereinafter referred to as the “OMP”)

(2) The OMP shall be a body corporate having perpetual

succession and a common seal and may sue and be sued in

its corporate name.

(3)The head office of the OMP shall be situated in

Colombo. The OMP may, from time to time, establish such

number of regional offices as may be necessary, to achieve

its mandate.

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4. (1)(a) The OMP shall consist of seven members who Constitution and

shall be appointed by the President on the composition of

the OMP.

recommendation of the Constitutional

Council.

(b) One of the members of the OMP shall, on the

recommendation of the Constitutional

Council, be appointed by the President as the

Chairman of the OMP:

Provided that the Constitutional Council

may recommend more than one name for

consideration by the President, to be

appointed as the Chairman of the OMP.

(2) In making recommendations for the appointment of

members to the OMP, the Constitutional Council shall, have

due regard to:-

(a) ensuring that the composition of the OMP reflects

the pluralistic nature of the Sri Lankan society; and

(b) ensuring that the members of the OMP shall be

persons with previous experience in fact finding or

investigation, human rights law, international

humanitarian law, humanitarian response, or possess

other qualifications relevant to the carrying out of

the functions of the OMP.

5. (1) The President shall appoint, within fourteen days Chairman and

of receiving the recommendations of the Constitutional members of the

OMP.

Council for such appointments, the Chairman and the

Members of the OMP.

(2) In the event the President fails to make the necessary

appointments within such period of fourteen days–

(a) the persons recommended to be appointed as

members of the OMP, shall be deemed to have been

appointed as members of the OMP; and

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(b) the person whose name appears first in the list of

names recommended to be appointed as the

Chairman, shall be deemed to have been appointed

as the Chairman of the OMP,

with effect from the date of expiry of such period.

(3) The Chairman of the OMP shall be its Chief Executive

Officer.

Term of office 6. Every member of the OMP shall hold office for a

of members.

period of three years, unless he vacates office prior to the

expiration of such term.

Removal of 7. (1) Any member who vacates his office, otherwise

members. than by, removal under subsection (3), shall be eligible to

be considered for re-appointment for one further term of three

years only:

Provided that no person shall be entitled to be appointed

as a Member of the OMP for more than two terms of office.

Provided further, that the period in which a Member is

appointed as an acting Member shall not be considered as a

‘term’ of office within the meaning of this subsection.

(2) The office of a member shall become vacant-

(a) upon the death of such member;

(b) upon such member resigning such office by

writing addressed to the President;

(c) upon such member being removed from office on

any ground specified in subsection (3) hereof; or

(d) on the expiration of such member’s term of office.

(3) A member of the OMP may be removed from office by

the President, if such person–

(a) is adjudged an insolvent by a court of competent

jurisdiction;

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(b) is found to have a conflict of interest, which in the

opinion of the President, formed on the

recommendation of the Prime Minister, made in

consultation with the Speaker and the Leader of

the Opposition, conflicts with his duties as a member

of the OMP;

(c) is unfit to continue in office by reason of infirmity

of mind or body;

(d) is declared to be of unsound mind by a court of

competent jurisdiction;

(e) is convicted of an offence involving moral

turpitude; or

(f) absents himself from three consecutive meetings

without previously obtaining leave of the OMP.

(4) The Chairman may resign from the office of Chairman

by letter addressed to the President.

(5) Subject to the provisions of subsection (3), the term

of office of the Chairman shall be the period of membership

of the OMP.

(6)(a) If the Chairman of the OMP becomes temporarily

unable to perform the duties of his office, by

reason of illness or other infirmity or due to

absence from Sri Lanka or any other such reason,

the President may appoint any other member of

the OMP to act in his place.

(b) If a Member of the OMP becomes temporarily

unable to perform the duties of his office, by

reason of illness or other infirmity or due to

absence from Sri Lanka or any other such reason,

the President may appoint any other person to act

in his place.

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(c) The provisions of sections 4 (1) and 5 shall apply

in respect of any person appointed to act as

Chairman or Member.

(7) No act or proceeding of the OMP shall be deemed to

be invalid by reason only of the existence of any vacancy

among its members, or defect in the appointment of any

member thereof.

Meetings of 8. (1) The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the

OMP. OMP. In the event of his absence from any meeting, the

members of the OMP present at such meeting shall elect one

of their membership to preside at such meeting.

(2) The Chairman of the OMP shall, in addition to his

own vote, have a casting vote.

(3) Subject to the other provisions of this Act, the OMP

may make rules, to regulate the procedure in regard to the

conduct of meetings of the OMP, and the transaction of

business at such meetings.

Quorum. 9. The quorum for meetings of the OMP shall be four

members.

PART II

POWERS, DUTIES AND MANDATE OF THE OMP

Mandate of the 10. (1) The OMP shall have the mandate-

OMP.

(a) to search for and trace missing persons and

identify appropriate mechanisms for the same

and to clarify the circumstances in which such

persons went missing;

(b) to make recommendations to the relevant

authorities towards addressing the incidence

of missing persons;

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(c) to protect the rights and interests of missing

persons and their relatives as provided for in

this Act;

(d) to identify avenues of redress to which missing

persons and relatives of missing persons are

entitled and to inform the missing person (if

found alive) or relative of such missing person

of same;

(e) to collate data related to missing persons

obtained by processes presently being carried

out, or which were previously carried out, by

other institutions, organizations, Government

Departments and Commissions of Inquiry and

Special Presidential Commission of Inquiry

and centralize all available data within the

database established under this Act;

(f) to do all such other necessary things that may

become necessary to achieve the objectives

under the Act.

(2) The mandate of the OMP shall extend to missing

persons notwithstanding the time period in which such

person became a missing person.

11. The OMP shall have the following general powers- General Powers

of the OMP.

(a) to enter into agreements, as are necessary to

achieve the mandate of the OMP, with any

person or organization;

(b) to make rules to ensure the effective

functioning of the OMP;

(c) to issue from time to time, rules and guidelines,

which may include gender-sensitive policies,

to be followed by all staff of the OMP relating

to the exercise, performance and discharge of

its powers, duties and functions;

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(d) to appoint and dismiss staff and consultants

and to request secondment of public officers

to the OMP;

(e) to establish from time to time, and in addition

to those Units and Divisions specifically

mentioned in this Act, such Committees and /

or Divisions and / or Units as are required for the

effective administration and functioning of the

OMP, and shall also have the power to delegate

such powers and functions as are necessary to

such Committees, Divisions and Units.

Powers of 12. The OMP shall have the following investigative

Investigation. powers:-

(a) to receive, from any relative of a missing person, or

any other person or organization, complaints

relating to missing persons, irrespective of when

such person may have become a missing person;

(b) to initiate an inquiry and/or investigation into the

whereabouts and/or circumstances of disappearance

of a missing person pursuant to a complaint made

to the OMP or on the basis of information received

from previously established Commissions of

Inquiry, Commissions on missing persons or

Commissions which have inquired into allegations

relating to disappearances or missing persons:

Provided however, that the OMP may grant

priority to-

(i) incidents of missing persons that have

occurred most recently;

(ii) incidents in which there is substantial

evidence already available; or

(iii) such incidents that are, in the opinion of the

OMP, of public importance;

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(c) to take all necessary steps to investigate cases of

missing persons, including but not limited to the

following—

(i) to procure and receive statements, written or

oral, and to examine persons as witnesses,

including video-conferencing facilities;

(ii) to summon any person present or residing in

Sri Lanka to be present before the OMP to

provide a statement or produce any document

or other thing in his possession;

(iii) to admit, notwithstanding anything

contained to the contrary in the Evidence

Ordinance, any statement or material, whether

written or oral, which might be inadmissible

in civil or criminal proceedings;

(iv) to establish a process to accept confidential

information or information in camera, if

required, to help ensure personal security for

victims and witnesses;

(v) to establish a process to accept information

on the condition of confidentiality.

(d) to apply to the appropriate Magistrate’s Court

having territorial jurisdiction, for an order of Court

to carry out an excavation and/or exhumation of

suspected grave sites, and to act as an observer at

such excavation or exhumation, and at other

proceedings, pursuant to the same;

(e) to request assistance necessary for the achieving of

its mandate, from any State, governmental,

provincial, or local authority or agency, or any

officer thereof. Notwithstanding anything to the

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contrary in any other written law or regulation made

thereunder, any such authority, agency or officer to

which a request for assistance is made by the OMP

shall forthwith render such assistance. Such

assistance shall include but not be limited to

providing information and producing documents

in the possession of such authority, agency or

officer;

(f) to authorize in writing a specified officer of the

OMP, to enter without warrant, at any time any place

of detention, police station, prison or any other

place in which any person is suspected to be

detained, or is suspected to have previously been

detained in, whether by judicial order or otherwise

and make such examinations therein or make

such inquiries from any person found therein, to

ascertain the conditions of detention and retain any

documents or objects, as may be necessary;

For the purposes of this paragraph, the Minister

assigned the subject of Justice shall make guidelines

for the conduct of the search and place it before

Parliament within a period of three months;

The OMP shall inform the Inspector General of

Police within twenty four hours of conducting the

search without a warrant;

(g) to make an application to the Magistrate having

territorial jurisdiction, for the issuance of a search

warrant, to enable Police or specified officers of the

OMP, to search any premises suspected to contain

evidence relevant to an investigation being

conducted by the OMP, and to examine, make

copies of, extract from, seize and retain, any object

that is deemed necessary for the purposes of any

investigation being conducted by the OMP;

(h) to refer, after due consultation with the complainant,

to the police or any other relevant law enforcement

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authority all cases of missing persons that have been

brought before the OMP not falling within the

definition of the expression “missing persons” as

defined in this Act;

(i) where it appears to the OMP that an offence within

the meaning of the Penal Code or any other law,

has been committed, that warrants investigation,

the OMP may, after consultation with such relatives

of the missing person as it deems fit, in due

consideration of the best interests of the victims,

relatives and society, report the same to the relevant

law enforcement or prosecuting authority: such

report will provide information relating to the

missing person’s civil status (such as the name, age

and gender of the missing person), the place(s) or

district(s) in which the missing person was last seen

and the date thereof:

Provided that where a witness consents, the OMP

may also inform the relevant authority, of the details

of such witness, in order to enable such relevant

authority to secure a statement from such witness

to be used in the process of investigation.

13. (1) The OMP shall be charged with the following Functions and

functions:- duties of the

OMP.

(a) (i) Pending an ongoing investigation, where the

OMP has sufficient material to conclude that

the person to whom a complaint relates is a

missing person, it shall issue an interim report

to the relative of such missing person, to such

effect, in order to enable the Registrar General

to issue a Certificate of Absence;

(ii) Upon the conclusion of an investigation, where

the OMP concludes that the person to whom a

complaint relates is a missing person or is

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deceased it shall issue a report to the relative of

such missing person, to such effect, in order to

enable the Registrar General to issue a Certificate

of Absence or a Certificate of Death as the case

may be;

(iii) where further investigations reveal that a

conclusion reported in an interim report or report

is erroneous, the OMP shall notify the relative

of the same, and simultaneously inform the

Registrar General of such further development;

(iv) in providing interim reports, reports, or

information to a relative of a missing person, the

order of priority between relatives shall be the

order specified in section 27;

(v) interim reports and reports shall only be issued

to facilitate the issuance of Certificates of

Absence during the operation of the Registration

of Deaths (Temporary Provisions) Act, No. 19 of

2010 or such other law which permits the

issuance of Certificates of Absence by the

Registrar General.

(b) to provide to any relative of a missing person or

any other complainant, wherever the OMP is able

to do so, information relating to the whereabouts

of a missing person, if found to be alive, subject to

the consent of the person found alive;

(c) to provide relatives of a missing person, information

relating to the status of an ongoing investigation,

pertaining to such missing person, unless the OMP

is of the view that such would hinder the ongoing

investigation or that it is not in the best interests of

the missing person:

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Provided that where the relatives of the missing

person are deceased or unknown or the OMP is

unable to locate such relatives, the OMP may

provide updates with regard to such investigation

to an appropriate authority or organisation.

(d) at the conclusion of an investigation the OMP shall,

subject to the provisions of section 15(1)-

(i) where the missing person is deceased or his

whereabouts are unknown, inform the relatives

of the missing person and other complainant as

the case may be, of the circumstances in which

such person went missing and his fate;

(ii) where the missing person’s whereabouts are

known, subject to sub-paragraph (b) inform the

relatives of the missing person of the

circumstances in which such person went

missing.

(e) to provide, or facilitate the provision of,

administrative assistance, and welfare services

including where required, psycho-social support,

to the relatives of the missing person;

(f) to recommend that the relevant authority grant

reparations to missing persons and / or relatives of

missing persons, including but not limited to

compensation and / or recommend the provision of

other administrative and welfare services including

psycho-social services;

(g) to develop and enforce a system for victim and

witness protection:

Provided that the provisions hereof shall not

prejudice the rights of parties or the OMP to seek

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appropriate orders in terms of the Assistance to and

Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Act,

No. 4 of 2015;

(h) to create, manage and maintain a database which

will include all particulars concerning missing

persons;

(i) to inform victims, relatives, witnesses and other

informants who provide information to the OMP,

of their right to directly refer matters to relevant

authorities, including their right to report serious

crimes to the relevant law enforcement or

prosecuting authority and of the availability of any

mechanism through which they may make claims

for administrative relief;

(j) to take appropriate steps towards creating public

awareness of the causes, incidence and effects of

missing persons, and towards creating public

support for fulfilling the needs of the relatives of

missing persons and facilitating their access to

economic, psycho-social, legal and administrative

support;

(k) to make recommendations to the relevant

authorities, relevant to its mandate, including

recommendations relating to-

(i) the prevention of future disappearances, based

on patterns identified in the course of the work

of the OMP;

(ii) the means and methods of commemoration and

acknowledgment;

(iii) the handling of unidentifiable remains and

identifiable remains;

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(iv) the handling of cases in which either

circumstances or whereabouts of missing

persons cannot be clarified;

(v) the publishing of information on issues of

missing persons for public knowledge with due

consideration to all relevant laws pertaining to

confidentiality and protection of data;

(vi) the development of national laws and

regulations related to missing persons; and

(vii) reparations, psycho-social support and other

means to improve social and economic

conditions of victims and relatives of missing

persons:

Provided that in making the said

recommendations under paragraph (k) the OMP shall

consult as it deems appropriate, relatives of missing

persons and / or organisations representing missing

persons.

(2) The findings of the OMP shall not give rise to any

criminal or civil liability.

14. In exercising its powers under this Act the OMP OMP to ensure

shall ensure that the rights of missing persons and relatives the rights of

missing persons

of missing persons shall be enforced on a basis of equality and relatives.

without regard to status and without discrimination on any

grounds whatsoever.

15. (1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any Confidentiality

written law, except in the performance of his duties under of information.

this Act, every member, officer, servant and consultant of

the OMP shall preserve and aid in preserving confidentiality

with regard to matters communicated to them in confidence.

The provisions of the Right to Information Act, No. 12 of

2016, shall not apply with regard to such information.

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(2) No member, officer, servant or consultant of the OMP

shall be required to produce, whether in any court or

otherwise, any material communicated to him in confidence

in the performance of his duties under this Act, except as

may be necessary for the purpose of carrying out or giving

effect to, the provisions of this Act.

(3) The OMP shall take all necessary steps including

technical safeguards to ensure the security of all its databases

and data.

PART III

SECRETARIAT, TRACING UNIT, VICTIMS AND WITNESS PROTECTION

DIVISION OF THE OMP

The Secretariat 16. (1) The OMP shall have a Secretariat which shall be

of the OMP.

charged with the responsibility for the administration of the

affairs of the OMP.

(2) There may be appointed by the OMP, such officers

and staff as may be necessary to assist the OMP in the

exercise, performance and discharge of its powers, duties

and functions as set out in this Act.

(3) The members of the OMP (for the limited purpose of

their functions under this Act) and the officers and staff of

the OMP, shall be deemed to be “public servants” for the

purposes of the Penal Code (Chapter 19), the Bribery Act

and the Evidence Ordinance (Chapter 14).

(4) The OMP shall be deemed to be a “scheduled

institution” within the meaning of the Bribery Act, and the

provisions of that Act shall be construed accordingly.

OMP Tracing 17. (1) There shall be a Tracing Unit of the OMP, which

Unit. shall be responsible for tracing and searching for missing

persons and for assisting in clarifying the circumstances of

such disappearance, and the whereabouts and fate of such

missing person.

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(2) The Tracing Unit shall be headed by an Executive

Officer appointed by the OMP and shall include competent,

experienced and qualified investigators, including those

with relevant technical and forensic expertise.

18. (1) There shall be a Victim and Witness Protection OMP Victim and

Division within the OMP that shall protect the rights and Witness

Protection

address the needs and concerns of victims, witnesses and

Division.

relatives of missing persons.

(2) The Victim and Witness Protection Division shall be

headed by an Executive Officer appointed by the OMP.

(3) The Division shall take all appropriate measures to

ensure the protection of victims and witnesses who engage

with the OMP.

(4) The Victim and Witness Protection Division may

provide or facilitate the provision of administrative services

and welfare services including psycho-social support to

victims, witnesses and relatives of missing persons.

(5) The Victim and Witness Protection Division shall

inform victims and witnesses of all the uses or potential

uses, of information provided.

(6) The Victim and Witness Protection Division may co-

ordinate with other law enforcement agencies where it deems

necessary.

PART IV

FINANCE

19. The State shall provide the OMP with adequate funds Finances.

to enable the OMP to discharge the functions assigned to it

by this Act. Such funds shall be charged on the Consolidated

Fund.

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Salaries of OMP 20. The salaries of the members of the OMP shall be

members. determined by Parliament and shall be charged on the

Consolidated Fund, and shall not be diminished during their

terms of office.

OMP to raise 21. The OMP may raise funds–

funds.

(a) by obtaining grants, gifts or endowments from

within Sri Lanka; and

(b) to achieve its mandate by obtaining grants, gifts or

endowments from outside Sri Lanka:

Provided that the funds under paragraph (b) are

channeled through the Department of External Resources.

Financial year. 22. (1) The financial year of the OMP shall be the

calendar year.

(2) The OMP shall cause proper accounts to be kept of its

income and expenditure, and assets and liabilities. The

accounts of the OMP shall be audited by the Auditor General

in terms of Article 154 of the Constitution.

Reporting. 23. The OMP shall, subject to the provisions of section

15 (1), submit annual reports to Parliament, and shall also

cause such reports to be made public.

PART V

GENERAL

Offences. 24. (1) If any person-

(a) fails without cause to appear before the OMP

pursuant to summons issued by the OMP; or

(b) refuses without cause to answer any question

put to him by the OMP; or

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(c) refuses or fails without cause to comply with

the requirements of a notice or written order or

direction issued or made to him, by the OMP; or

(d) upon whom a summons is served, refuses or fails

without cause to produce any document or other

thing, which is in his possession or control; or

(e) resists or obstructs an officer authorized under

this Act in the exercise by that officer of the

powers conferred on him; or

(f) knowingly hinders or obstructs the OMP in the

fulfillment or execution of its powers,

obligations and duties; or

(g) performs any act aimed at improperly

influencing or interfering with the work of the

OMP; or

(h) threatens, intimidates or improperly influences,

or attempts to threaten, intimidate or improperly

influence any person who has co-operated, or is

intending to co-operate with the OMP; or

(i) discloses any confidential information in

contravention of the provisions of this Act; or

(j) without reasonable excuse fails to comply with

any other order of the OMP,

such person shall be guilty of an offence of contempt against

the authority of the OMP.

(2) Where it appears that a person is guilty of an offence of

contempt the OMP shall report such matter to the Court of

Appeal. Every offence of contempt committed against the

authority of the OMP shall be punishable by the Court of

Appeal as though it were an offence of contempt committed

against the Court of Appeal.

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Protection 25. (1) (a) No order, decision, act or omission of the

from Action.

OMP or any member, officer or servant thereof shall be

questioned in any proceedings or any court of law, save and

except in proceedings under Article 126 or 140 of the

Constitution.

(b) The writ jurisdiction conferred on the Court of Appeal

by Article 140 of the Constitution in relation to any order,

decision, act or omission of the OMP or any member, officer

or servant thereof, shall be exercised by the Supreme Court

and not by the Court of Appeal.

(2) Other than in the circumstances provided for in sub-

section (1) of this section -

(a) no proceedings civil or criminal, shall be instituted

against any member of the OMP or any officer

or servant appointed to assist the OMP, other than

for contempt against the authority of the OMP,

for any act which in good faith is done or omitted

to be done, by him, as such member or officer

or servant;

(b) no proceedings civil or criminal, shall be instituted

against any member of the OMP in respect of any

report made in good faith by the OMP under this

Act or against any other person in respect of the

publication by such person of a true account of

such report;

(c) no proceedings civil, criminal or administrative,

shall be instituted against any person consequent,

to such person in good faith providing evidence or

documentation to the OMP.

Rules. 26. (1) The OMP may make rules for matters for which

rules are required to be made under this Act.

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(2) Every rule made under this Act shall be tabled before

Parliament and shall be published in the Gazette within a

reasonable period not exceeding three months.

27. Unless the context otherwise requires, in this Act - Interpretation.

“missing person” means a person whose fate or

whereabouts are reasonably believed to be

unknown and which person is reasonably

believed to be unaccounted for and missing-

(i) in the course of, consequent to, or in

connection with the conflict which took

place in the Nothern and Eastern

Provinces or its aftermath, or is a member

of the armed forces or police who is

identified as “missing in action”; or

(ii) in connection with political unrest or civil

disturbances; or

(iii) as an enforced disappearance as defined

in the “International Convention on

Protection of All Persons from Enforced

Disappearances”;

“relative of a missing person” shall in relation to

such missing person include the following

persons–

(i) spouse;

(ii) children including adopted children,

non-marital children, or step children;

(iii) parents (including step-mother, step-

father, adopter);

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(iv) full or half brother or sisters or adopted

brothers or sisters;

(v) father / mother- in-law, brother/sister-in-

law, sons/daughters-in-law;

(vi) grandchildren and grandparents.

Sinhala text to 28. In the event of any inconsistency between the

prevail in case Sinhala and Tamil Texts of this Act, the Sinhala text shall

of inconsistency.

prevail.

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