

Nine Civil Society Organisations Signed A Petition Against the Newly Enacted the Citizens Privacy and Security Protection Bill; Called the Union Parliament and the Government to Review It

9 March 2017

1. The Union Parliament approved the Citizens Privacy and Security Protection Bill on 1 March 2017 and it was signed by the President U Htin Kyaw and promulgated on 8 March 2017.
2. Since the draft bill was released in 2016, many Civil Society Organisations pointed out the vague and flawed definitions stated in the draft bill and sent their comments to the Parliament, Bill Committee and the Ministry of Home Affairs. Moreover, some CSOs have had several meetings with the members of Parliament, members of the Committee and the Ministry of Home Affairs since then.
3. However, the enacted Law still includes the flawed and vague definition and the protection granted under this law is not in accordance with International human rights standard. In section 8 of the Chapter-IV 'The Restrictions', states that without **any permission, order, or warrant in accordance with the existing laws, or the permission of the President, or the Union Government**, no one shall commit those actions indicated in section (a) to (g) which include detentions, surveillance, interception of communications and slander. The law does not contain the clear process of seeking permission, order, or warrant under which circumstance and how much private data shall be detained and kept for how long. No lawful interception is mentioned. The signatory Civil Society Organisations are very concerned that those provisions will affect the free expression rather than giving protection them.
4. On 15 December 2016, representatives from 18 organisations who attended the Digital Rights Forum released a joint statement urging the Union Parliament and the Government not to expedite the law enacting without having nation-wide public consultation. Despite the comments and requests made by people and Civil Society Organisations, the law was enacted on 8 March 2017.
5. It is obvious that the Legislative body, the Parliament that is constituted with the representatives elected by people, did not pay attention to People's voice.
6. Therefore, the following signatory organisations of this statement make objection to the newly enacted Citizen's Privacy and Security Protection Bill. They urge the Union Parliament to review it in reference to International Human Rights laws and standard.



MYANMAR MEDIA LAWYERS' NETWORK



Contact Persons

1. Han Zaw (PEN Myanmar) - 0973081350
2. Zayyar Hlaing (MJN) - 09448047320
3. Htaike Htaike (MIDO) - 0943025529
4. Wai Phyo Myint (MCRB) - 09795333831