

NEWS

Police Spokesman tells PCol detei terror suspects should be decided instead of court

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DIG Ajith Rohana



The Island Police Spokesman tells PCoI detention of terror suspects should

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By Rathindra Kuruwita



Police spokesman, DIG Ajith Rohana, on Saturday, told the PCoI probing the Easter S attacks that the power to issue detention orders for suspects arrested on terrorism-re activities should be given to a DIG instead of a court of law. He said that there was a c for a new law governing the activities of intelligence agencies.

Giving evidence before the PCoI for the third day, the Police Spokesman said that sus arrested for terrorism, related offences should be questioned at least for six months. who was on the committee that provided inputs for the Counter Terrorism Act (CTA) by the previous administration, was called before the PCoI to ascertain his opinions c existing laws on terrorism and religious extremism and the steps that should be take such activities.

The representative of the Attorney General's Department that led the evidence asked what the most important aspects to be considered were when extending detention or terror suspects.

“Usually, we go before a Magistrate to get detention orders or to get an extension. My opinion is that a DIG must be given the power to extend detention orders. There is no with establishing a supervisory body to monitor this. A Magistrate who operates in a where terrorism or religious extremism is rife is somewhat unsafe. Pressure can be ex the Magistrate. But since the investigators are trained, armed and are in camps they l such worries. The Magistrate or the Human Rights Commission can see the suspects month.”

The police spokesman added that authorising a DIG to extend detention orders would helpful to investigators.

Chairman of the PCoI then asked DIG Rohana for his proposals on granting bail for tl arrested for terrorist activities. “I don't think such a person should be granted bail be year has elapsed. If bail is granted before a year, the AG's advice must be sought. If a to be given bail after a year, a high court should do that. I am making these suggestio on the complexity of terrorism these days.”

action on the country. According to the Penal Code, preventing the enactment of just hiding evidence are offences.

Chairman: “Tell me, based on your experience, who should be entrusted with investig group of extremists in a particular area? The police station there or officers from a ce location?”

“Even now this is being done by the Terrorism Investigation Division (TID.) There is : charge of the TID. I think such investigations must be directed centrally but sub divis must be established provincially. We also need laws governing intelligence operation good way to strengthen these mechanisms,” DIG Rohana said.

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At least four inmates were killed and 26 others injured, yesterday evening, when officers opened fire during a riot in the Mahara prison. It was not clear how many had died, but for



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New Constitution making process underway




By Shamindra Ferdinando

Deputy Leader of the breakaway JVP faction-National Freedom Front (NFF) Jayantha Samaraweera, yesterday (29) told *The Island* that his party recently submitted 23 proposals to the nine-member expert committee appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers to draft a new Constitution.

President's Counsel Romesh de Silva leads the expert committee, named in early September

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Education Minister Prof GL Peiris told Parliament, on Saturday, that the final decision  whether the GCE O/L examination would be held as scheduled would be made public within one week.

Responding to a question raised by Kurunegala District SLPP MP Shantha Bandara, Minister Prof Peiris said that schools in Colombo, Gampaha, Kalutara districts, and the areas under lockdown in other districts had been closed owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. “The reopening of these schools depends on the advice of health authorities. The most important thing is saving the children from the pandemic. If this situation lasts more than one week or two weeks, we may not be able to hold the examination as scheduled from Jan 18 to 27 next year”

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