

National Security and Human Rights

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National security is the necessity to secure the sovereignty of nation-state through the use of diplomatic, economic, military and political power. It should be enforced to secure the value of human rights and individual freedom too. This paper makes special reference to identify the conflict between national security which is a debatable and sensitive mechanism in policy formulation in a country and individual freedom. It's a duty of any democratic government to maintain self-determination and sovereignty and to safeguard the rights and freedoms of its citizens. The basic argument is that within the concepts of sovereignty and equal treatment to all Sri Lankans, the role of human rights struggles to secure its position basically as the formulation and implementation of national security policies highly devalue individual freedom. Misconceptions, large number of check points, weapons and arms policies, negative morality towards minority groups and their conduct and security discrimination based on power are major issues addressed. Therefore it's apparent that although the national security measures are imposed to protect society as a whole, the privileges and freedom of individuals are restricted. The paper tries to identify to what extent the people's rights are limited for the sake of national security and intend to identify pessimistic co-relationship between human rights and national security.

Key words: national security, sovereignty, human rights, policy formulation, self-determination