LLM 00239

## RIGHT NOT TO BE TORTURED: A COMPARISONE

ANALYSIS BETWEEN

## SRI LANKA AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

by

### AYESHA KUSHANI RATHGAMAGE

The Dissertation submitted to

# GENERAL SIR JOHN KOTELAWALA DEFENCE UNIVERSITY

### SRI LANKA

In partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of the degree of

**Master of Laws** 

31st July 2024

#### **Abstract**

# RIGHT NOT TO BE TORTURED: A COMPARISONE ANALYSIS BETWEEN SRI LANKA AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

Fundamental rights are specific rights within a legal system that are seen as vital or basic to that legal system. This study examines Sri Lanka's fundamental rights framework critically, concentrating on the right to be free from torture. Further, the study paper explores the legislative provisions that protect fundamental rights, commencing with an examination of the way these rights evolved throughout Sri Lanka's constitutional history, from the 1972 to the 1978 constitution. The primary focus of this research is to address the complicated issue of protecting fundamental rights, specifically the freedom from torture, within the legal system of Sri Lanka. A qualitative approach was adopted for the evaluation of the fundamental rights of Sri Lanka. The data were collected using primary and secondary sources based on a qualitative approach. The study assesses the degree to which Sri Lanka upholds and realizes the right to be free from torture by critically analyzing case law, legislative initiatives, and empirical evidence. It also looks at historical elements, structural difficulties, and the sociopolitical environment that can make it more difficult to effectively defend this fundamental right. Collected data were analyzed using the manual content analysis method. This study highlights both international and local legal benchmarks for safeguarding against acts of torture and a historical analysis of the evolution of human rights in Sri Lanka, with a specific focus on the development of protective measures against torture. The research contributes to critically evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of proposed amendments and recommendations aimed at addressing gaps in the current legal framework pertaining to torture prevention and accountability.

Key Words: Fundamental Rights, Human Rights, Freedom from Torture