

# **A Leviathan Challenged: An Analysis of The Right to Revolt Demonstrated in the *Aragalaya* Movement**

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REVOLUTIONS, although, almost invariably mark the darkest days of certain climacterics, the great consequences of some of such struggles, emancipating the common person from the shackles of absolutism and suffering, have resulted in great lionizations of some of them, while some, nonetheless, only see injustice and folly in them, and a grim reflection of this dichotomy of perceptions is visible in how Sri Lankans view the recent ARAGALYA movement; while it is hailed by some as a noble REVOLUTION, to some it is a base act of TERRORISM. In this light, this research attempts to understand the nature of ARAGALAYA, and to ponder under which categories from the above should it fall. In finding an answer, the research resorts to Hobbes's philosophy to digest the status of the Sri Lankan civil society, to see if they are entitled to revolt against their sovereign through REVOLUTIONS. The researcher concludes that the true sovereign of Sri Lanka, as defined by the 1978 Constitution, is the abstract entity found in THE PEOPLE, while the officials of the state are an APPARENT SOVEREIGN exercising the power entrusted to them by this TRUE SOVEREIGN. Although the civil society consisting various multitudes are bound to pay obedience to both sovereigns, they have not through the SOCIAL CONTRACT transferred their right to life. Researcher argues that when the right to life, even in its broadest sense, is violated the multitudes are entitled to revolt, discussing nonetheless why REVOLUTIONS should be a matter of last resort. It is, furthermore, seen that the line between TERRORISM and REVOLUTION is marked by violence against civilians and two criteria of legitimacy. This research, employing a doctrinal legal research methodology, studies Hobbes's body of work attempting to harmonize it with the 1978 Constitution. On these findings the researcher concludes that the ARAGALAYA is a justified REVOLUTION, albeit isolated acts of TERRORISM are seen in its unfolding. Nevertheless, the researcher demonstrates that the sense of self-preservation of persons would result in them circumventing having to revolt if they are given a truly lesser evil to resort to. To that end researcher recommends providing *socitas civilis* a legally identified method to revolt against their APPARENT SOVEREIGN, namely the recall referendum.

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