

THE RIGHT TO A FAIR TRIAL

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ABSTRACT: *In the determination of his civil rights and obligations or of any criminal charge against him, everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law. The right to fair trial is seen as an essential right in all countries respecting the rule of law. A trial in these countries that is deemed unfair will typically be restarted, or its verdict quashed.*

The right to a fair trial is explicitly proclaimed in Article 10 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 6 of the European Convention of Human Rights, as well as numerous other constitutions and declarations throughout the world.

The right to a fair trial is an ancient one and is synonymous with the trial process itself. It would be nonsense to speak of the permissibility of an unfair trial. After centuries of implementation in practice, the right to a fair trial, which was finally codified in the international human rights instruments following World War II, is now universally recognized.

KEYWORDS: *right to a fair trial, ECHR, art.6, rule of law, justice.*

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