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Fair Trials Manual
A detailed guide to international and regional human rights standards

The right to a fair trial is a fundamental human right. When this right is violated, people innocent of any crime face conviction, imprisonment and even execution. The justice system itself loses credibility.

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”
Martin Luther King

The Amnesty International Fair Trials Manual is a detailed guide to the international and regional human rights standards which set out guarantees of a fair trial. It is intended for the use of trial observers and others assessing the fairness of an individual case, and for anyone seeking to evaluate whether a country’s criminal justice system meets international standards. The risk of human rights violations starts from the moment that officials raise suspicions against a person, through arrest, in pre-trial detention, during the trial, during all appeals, right through to the imposition of any punishment. International fair trial standards are designed to define and protect people’s rights through all these stages. The manual covers pre-trial rights, rights at trial and during appeals, and special cases including death penalty trials, cases involving children and fair trial rights during armed conflict.

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