

LEGAL RIGHTS - CRIMINAL - Right to an Interpreter

I. ARTICLES

- Article 14.3(a) and 14.3(f), ICCPR

Article 14

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3. In the determination of any criminal charge against him, everyone shall be entitled to the following minimum guarantees, in full equality:

(a) To be informed promptly and in detail in a language which he understands of the nature and cause of the charge against him;

...

(f) To have the free assistance of an interpreter if he cannot understand or speak the language used in court...

- Article 40.1 and 40.2(b)(vi), CRC

Article 40

1. States Parties recognize the right of every child alleged as, accused of, or recognized as having infringed the penal law to be treated in a manner consistent with the promotion of the child's sense of dignity and worth, which reinforces the child's respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of others and which takes into account the child's age and the desirability of promoting the child's reintegration and the child's assuming a constructive role in society.

2. To this end, and having regard to the relevant provisions of international instruments, States Parties shall, in particular, ensure that:

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(b) Every child alleged as or accused of having infringed the penal law has at least the following guarantees:

...

(vi) To have the free assistance of an interpreter if the child cannot understand or speak the language used...

- Article 16.8, CMW

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Article 16

...

8. Migrant workers and members of their families who are deprived of their liberty by arrest or detention shall be entitled to take proceedings before a court, in order that that court may decide without delay on the lawfulness of their detention and order their release if the detention is not lawful. When they attend such proceedings, they shall have the assistance, if necessary without cost to them, of an interpreter, if they cannot understand or speak the language used.

- Article 18.3(f), CMW

Article 18

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3. In the determination of any criminal charge against them, migrant workers and members of their families shall be entitled to the following minimum guarantees:

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(f) To have the free assistance of an interpreter if they cannot understand or speak the language used in court;

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