

# **CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AND DEFENCE RIGHTS IN SWEDEN**

## **This leaflet covers:**

- Information about FTI
- Definitions of key legal terms
- Criminal proceedings and defence rights in Sweden
- Useful links

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## **About Fair Trials International**

Since 1992 Fair Trial International has worked for the better protection of fair trial rights and defended the rights of people facing criminal charges in a country other than their own. Our vision is a world where every person's right to a fair trial is respected, whatever their nationality, wherever they are accused.

Fair Trials International was established to help people arrested outside their own country to defend their right to a fair trial. Every year we help hundreds of people and their families to navigate a foreign legal system by offering practical advice, including contacts of local lawyers, guidance on key issues encountered by people arrested abroad, and basic information on different legal systems and local sources of support. As a charity, we do not charge for any of the assistance that we provide.

We believe that respect for fundamental rights and the rule of law are the hallmarks of a just society and that the right to a fair trial is at the heart of this. Sadly too many shocking cases of injustice demonstrate how, time and again, this most basic human right is being abused. We fight against injustice by lobbying for the legal reforms needed to ensure that the right to a fair trial is respected in practice. Working with our clients and international networks, we also campaign for changes to criminal justice laws which are being abused and overused.

To find out more about how FTI can assist you, please contact our legal team (contact details on the back cover).

Fair Trials International is a registered charity (No 1134586) and is registered with limited liability in England and Wales (No 7135273). We are a non-governmental organisation; as such, we are a wholly separate and independent organisation from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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## DEFINITIONS OF KEY LEGAL TERMS

**Appeal** (*Överklagande*): An opportunity to dispute a decision made at trial (either on guilt or on sentence) by asking a higher court to decide again.

**Bail**: The temporary release from pre-trial detention (prison) of a person accused of a crime and awaiting trial. There is no direct equivalent to this word in Swedish. Bail in the form of depositing money as a form of security to obtain release from detention ('*Borgen*') is not recognised under Swedish law.

**Bar Association** (*Advokatsamfund*): An organisation whose role is to represent lawyers and help people in their dealings with lawyers.

**Charge/Indictment** (*Åtal*): A written statement accusing a person of carrying out an offence. In Sweden, written charges are usually made a few weeks before the trial. Criminal accusations are referred to more generally as '*misstanke*'.

**Consulate** (*Konsulat*): The section of an embassy whose task is to assist its citizens.

**Court of Appeal** (*Hovrätt*): A decision made at the initial trial can be appealed to the Court of Appeal. There are 6 Courts of Appeal in Sweden.

**District Court** (*Tingsrätt*): A lower court where a case is initially heard. In Sweden, all crimes, regardless of seriousness, are tried in the District Court.

**Embassy** (*Ambassad*): The office of a government official who resides in a foreign country and represents his/her government's interests.

**European Court of Human Rights** (*Europadomstolen för mänskliga rättigheter*): The Court is based in Strasbourg, France, and hears human rights cases against the 47 countries which make up the Council of Europe (which is different from the European Union).

**Fast track proceedings or summary proceedings** (*Straff-föreläggande*): In Sweden, this refers to a process in which the prosecutor may suggest the imposition of a fine during the investigation, in cases where the accused has confessed to his/her crime. If s/he does not accept the sentence imposed by the prosecutor, the case is tried at the District Court.

**Judge** (*Domare*): A person with authority to hear and decide on cases in a court of law.

**Judgment** (*Dom*): A decision on a case provided by a judge or a panel in a court of law.

**Lawyer** (*Advokat*): A person whose profession is to give legal advice and assistance to clients and represent them in court or in other legal matters. In Sweden, only members of the Swedish bar association are entitled to use the title '*Advokat*'.

- **Public Defender / Duty Lawyer** (*Offentlig försvarare*): Public Defenders are lawyers who are appointed by the court to advise and represent criminal suspects in their legal proceedings. The costs of a public defender are covered by the state, but if the accused is

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convicted s/he may need to reimburse the costs to the state.

- **Private Defender** (*Privat försvarare*) is a criminal lawyer who acts on a privately paid basis.

**Prosecutor** (*Åklagare*): A jurist (civil servant) who conducts a case against a person who is accused of a crime. The role of the prosecutor in Sweden is in many cases similar to those for an investigative judge in certain other jurisdictions. They are in charge of the investigation conducted by the police, and they make decisions on your status during the investigation.

**Remand** (*Häktning*): The act of sending a person, accused of a crime, into detention in prison during investigations (and often during the trial itself as well), which happens before the decision on guilt or innocence is made by the court.

**Sentence** (*Straff*): The punishment assigned to a person convicted of a crime as fixed by a court of law.

**Victim** is known as “*offer*” in Swedish.

**Witness** is known as “*vittne*” in Swedish. A victim can be a witness in the proceedings.

## **INFORMTION ON CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AND DEFENCE RIGHTS IN SWEDEN**

**We have prepared these notes with the assistance of local criminal lawyers, who tried to describe how things happen in practice, i.e. in the real world. Even within one country, however, practice can vary greatly from one place to another and it is therefore possible that your experience will sometimes differ from the descriptions below. This document does not constitute legal advice and only provides general information. If you need advice in relation to your specific case, or if you are concerned about a possible violation of your rights, you should discuss this with your local lawyer.**

### **1. LEGAL SYSTEM**

#### **Q1. Where do the laws of Sweden apply?**

Sweden has criminal and criminal procedure laws which apply throughout the country.

### **2. ARREST AND INVESTIGATION**

Police officers have the power to apprehend and detain ('*gripen*') suspects for up to 6 hours (12 hours under exceptional circumstances). If they wish to detain you for longer, the prosecutor has to 'arrest' you ('*anhållen*'), and apply to the court for a remand order before 12:00pm after the third day of your arrest. This means, for example, that if you are detained after 6pm on

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Monday, the latest you can be produced before a judge is midday on Friday that week.

**I. What are my rights upon arrest?**

**(a) Right to information:**

**Q2. Will the police inform me of my rights? Will this be done orally or in writing?**

Any suspect interviewed by the police should receive information about their rights during the investigation. This information is at first provided orally.

If you are detained by the police, you should receive information about your rights in writing (if you do not speak Swedish, translations are available in many languages, and an interpreter will give you an oral explanation of the rights, if there is no written translation available in your language).

**Q3. Do I have the right to be informed of the allegations/charges against me?**

You should be given detailed and precise information about the allegations against you at the beginning of your police interview. If you are assisted by a lawyer, s/he should ensure that the allegations are clearly stated. These might not be given to you in writing immediately, but you should be given a document that contains such information at a later stage.

**(b) The right to inform people:**



**Q4. Do I have a right to have the consulate informed of the arrest?**

If you are not a Swedish citizen, you are entitled to have the consulate or embassy of your country informed of your arrest.

**Q6. Do I have a right to inform my family of the arrest?**

You can name a family member, who should be informed of your arrest, unless it is believed that this could undermine ongoing investigations.

If you are taken to court, and the judge decides to keep you detained, your family will be notified.

**Q7. Do I have a right to a lawyer?**

Yes. If you are arrested it is very likely that you are entitled to a public defender (who is paid for by the state) from your first interview. You may be encouraged to waive (i.e. give up) this right during your initial interview to prevent delays, and/or to reduce the risk of prolonging your detention.

Public defenders are almost always available on short notice. Your interview may be delayed by a few hours, but the risk of detention after the initial arrest, could be reduced if the defender is appointed early in the process.

If you risk to be taken into remand, you will most certainly have a public defender appointed for you, at the latest before your first hearing. You could also try to

get a private lawyer to be present, but in practice it is very hard to find a private defender to assist you immediately after your arrest.

**Q8. Do I have a right to a translator/interpreter?**

Yes, you have a right to an interpreter free of charge during the proceedings and during (police) interrogations. You should tell the police and your lawyer that you need an interpreter.

**Q9. Do I have to talk to the police or can I remain silent during police interrogation? Will it work against me if I am silent?**

You have the right to remain silent at all times during the investigation, but you should legal advice from your lawyer before deciding whether to provide the police with information, or to remain silent. Your silence cannot be used against you, if you chose to remain silent until you have spoken to a lawyer. If you chose to provide the police with information after you have been assisted by a lawyer, you can request for a new interview to be arranged.

If you choose to remain silent, you might lose the opportunity to provide important information, or to secure evidence that supports your defence, but you will need legal advice from your lawyer on your specific situation.

**Q10. When will I know about the case against me?**

You should receive information about the allegations at your first police interview. If the prosecutor decides to request the court to place you on remand, you will, in most cases, receive a part of the casefile before, or at the beginning of the remand hearing. If the allegations against you are changed during the investigation, due to the discovery of new evidence or for other reasons, you should be informed promptly.

During the investigation, you have the right to all documents in the casefile, unless it is believed that such access could influence the investigation. In practice, there are many cases in which your access to the casefile to be denied for this reason, and you may only get full access only when the prosecutor considers the investigation complete.

You and your lawyer should have access to the full casefile before the main trial hearing, and you are entitled to make requests for additions to the casefile.

**Q11. How long can I be kept in prison before my trial starts?**

There is no legal maximum period for which you could be placed in prison before your trial starts, but most cases go to trial within a few months of the arrest.

Sweden has been criticised for its excessive use of pre-trial detention.

### **3. LEGAL REPRESENTATION**

For general information on why and how to appoint a local lawyer, please refer to our “Arrested in Another Country?” note.

**Q12. How do I find a lawyer?**

If you request a public defender, the court will appoint one from a list of duty lawyers.

You can request a specific lawyer to be appointed as your public defender. These requests are granted in most cases. If the lawyer you request resides in another part of the country, the court may appoint him/her as your public defender under the condition that you pay the lawyer’s travel expenses. The lawyer is not obliged to accept such an arrangement, and it is up to them to decide whether or not they want to be your public defender.

Alternatively, you can hire a private lawyer to assist you. You have to pay for your private lawyer’s fees yourself, but in certain cases, you may be able to get the court to reimburse the costs of your lawyer, depending on the outcome of your case. You can also ask for your private lawyer to be appointed by the court as your public defender.

**Q13. What is the role of my lawyer? Will s/he investigate the case?**

Your lawyer will provide you with legal advice and represent you in court, based on the evidence gathered by the prosecution and given by any witnesses that are called. S/he can also request that the prosecution conducts further investigations and/or that the court

calls witnesses or gathers specific evidence, but this will be at the discretion of the court.

**Q14. I cannot afford to pay for a private lawyer, what should I do? (Is there legal aid? How should I apply? What are the criteria to be eligible? What is covered by legal aid?)**

With the exception of cases involving minor crimes, most suspects are entitled to a public defender. You are free to suggest a specific lawyer to be appointed, and may request the court to change your public defender. If requested, the public defender should be present at the first police interview, and will keep the assignment until a verdict is given by the court. If the verdict is appealed by you or the prosecutor, you keep the public defender through out the appeal proceedings.

If you are convicted, you may have to reimburse the state for the costs of your public defender. This is subject to a means test (an assessment of your financial circumstances). Individuals sentenced to imprisonment are usually not required to reimburse the state.

**Q15. I am unhappy with my lawyer: How can I change lawyer? How can I complain about my lawyer?**

First of all, you should raise your concerns with your lawyer.

If you have a private defender, you can terminate his/her contract at your own discretion by revoking the power of attorney.

A public defender can be changed by the court. You have to request the court for a new public defender. The court does not need to agree to your request.

You can also file a formal complaint with the Swedish Bar Association. If the complaint is well-founded, the lawyer may be criticised, warned, fined or in the most serious cases, disbarred.

## **4. PRE-TRIAL MATTERS**

### **4.1 Pre-trial matters: detention**

The information given below is specific to Sweden. For general information and tips about how to obtain your release prior to your trial, please refer to note of advice on “Release Pending Trial”.

#### **Q16. Will I have to stay in prison until my trial starts?**

You may be detained until your trial is over. Individuals accused of an offence punishable by imprisonment of one year or more could be placed in detention if, given the nature of the offence, and various other factors, there is a reasonable risk that the person will:

- a) Flee, or otherwise evade legal proceedings or subsequent punishment;
- b) Interfere with ongoing investigations by, for example, destroying evidence or intimidating witnesses; or

- c) Engage in criminal activities.

If you are being accused of an offence for which you will get at least two years in prison if convicted, you are likely to be detained, unless your detention is clearly unjustified.

There is a higher risk that you will be detained, even on suspicion for a minor offence if:

- a) You refuse to provide details of your identity and address;
- b) You provide false information regarding your identity or address; or
- c) There is a reasonable risk that you will try to leave the country in order to avoid your trial.

The court may also impose additional restrictions ('*Restriktioner*') whilst you are on remand. These could include restrictions on your right to access the media (such as television and newspapers), and on your right to communicate with other detainees and with the outside world. You can appeal against these restrictions at any time.

**Q17. Are there alternatives to detention pending trial?**

You may be released and be subject to various conditions, such as travel restrictions, and/or an obligation to report with the police on a regular basis. You may also be required to be at your place of residence or work at specified times. Bail, in the form of

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depositing money with the court as way of securing release, is not recognised in Sweden.

**Q18. How and when can I apply for release while waiting for trial?**

Your detention is reviewed every other week, and you can appeal against each decision to extend your detention. You should consult with your lawyer to decide how often to apply and/or appeal for your release. Your lawyer may advise you to accept the extension of your detention for two weeks without a court hearing.

In some cases, there could be limited benefit in getting your detention reviewed at every available opportunity, as you may have the same judge deciding on your detention for several consecutive hearings.

**Q19. Can I go back to my home country if I have been released pending my trial?**

You should be able to leave Sweden pending your trial, unless you are in detention, or you are subject to travel restrictions. Suspects are often detained, but travel restrictions are less common.

**Q20. What will happen if I breach the conditions of my release?**

If you violate the conditions of your release (for example, you fail to comply with reporting conditions or travel restrictions), a warrant could be issued for your arrest, and you may be detained until your trial.

**Q21. Do I need a lawyer to apply for release?**

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If there is any risk that you could be detained or subject to travel restrictions, you will be given a public defender appointed by the court.

#### **4.2. Pre-trial matters: timing**

##### **Q22. How long before my case goes to trial?**

Most cases are tried within a few months, but if the investigation is extensive, or if evidence needs to be obtained from several countries, the trial may be delayed.

There is no legal limit on how long you can be in pre-trial detention. The prosecutor has to have valid reasons for every extension of the detention, which needs to be approved by the court. The length of your detention should be proportionate to your expected sentence, and interference with your personal life.

##### **Q23. There are always delays with my case, does that mean my lawyer is doing a bad job?**

Investigations are led by the prosecutor. Your lawyer is not in control of the pace, or the extent of the investigations, so in most cases, it is unlikely that your lawyer is responsible for the delays in your case.

When your detention is reviewed, the judge may give the prosecutor an 'informal warning', or release you if s/he believes that the investigation is not making progress.

### **4.3. Pre-trials matters: pleading guilty**

#### **Q24. Can I plead guilty? What are the consequences of pleading guilty?**

The consequences of a guilty plea are serious, and you will not get a more lenient sentence by pleading guilty (unless you hand yourself into the police before investigations are initiated), nor will you be given any credit for naming other persons involved. Plea bargaining is not a concept that is recognised in Sweden.

### **5. THE TRIAL**

#### **Q25. What happens at the trial?**

- The prosecutor starts off by requesting the court to find you guilty of the accusations against you.
- You will then be asked by the presiding judge to confirm whether you wish to plead guilty, or not guilty to the charges, and if applicable, you will also be asked whether you are willing to compensate the victim.
- The prosecution presents its version of the facts in your case. The written evidence in your case could be presented at the same time.
- The victim is heard. In exceptional cases the examination of the plaintiff can take place without the defendant being present in the courtroom. If this happens you can listen to the examination in a separate room.

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- You give your version of the facts and, you are questioned.
- The witnesses are called one at a time and are examined. All sides involved in the trial and the judges can put questions to the witnesses. In exceptional circumstances the witness can be examined in your absence. If this happens, you will be able to listen to the examination in a separate room.
- The court considers your personal circumstances, including your criminal records and your probation report. You can also give an account about your personal circumstances, and the judge may also ask questions about your finances to determine whether you are capable of reimbursing the state's costs for your public defender and/or the amount of the fines.
- The parties conclude their cases. Usually, the prosecutor is the first to summarise his/her views, followed by you or your lawyer. Amongst the issues discussed could be opinions on what facts have been proven, and the appropriate sentence.
- The judges retire to consider the verdict in your case.

**Q26. Do I have to be present?**

In the vast majority of cases you have to attend trial and it is generally advised that you do so.

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If the main hearing is postponed because you do not attend court, despite having received a notice from the court, the court could fine you. The prosecutor may then issue a warrant for your arrest, if it is believed that you have absconded (in other words, deliberately avoided your trial).

If your case can be sufficiently examined in your absence, and the expected sentence is low, you might be tried and convicted in your absence.

**Q27. Can I ask for the trial to take place in my home country?**

No.

**Q28. Is there a jury?**

No. In the district court there are three lay judges and one professional judge. In the Courts of Appeal there are three professional judges and two lay judges.

**Q29. Can my lawyer call and cross-examine witnesses?**

You and/or your lawyer can call witnesses, experts or present other forms of evidence, but the court may dismiss evidence they find obviously unrelated to the case.

If new evidence is called for at a late stage (shortly before or during the main hearing) delays may occur.

The party calling the witness examines the witness, and the other party is given the opportunity to cross-examine. The judge may ask the witness questions to clarify ambiguities.

**Q30. I don't speak the language of the court, do I have a right to an interpreter? Is it free?**

There should be an interpreter present throughout the proceedings, free of charge. The interpreter may only be present by telephone, but in general the courts try to have the interpreter physically present, because this improves the quality of the interpretation.

**Q31. Will the written evidence be translated for me?**

Only the main documents on the casefile are translated. If the casefile is extensive you are likely to receive an mp3 player containing an oral translation of the whole casefile in a language you understand.

For smaller investigations, a meeting may be arranged for you in which an interpreter reads the casefile to you. You can ask for written translations of key documents.

**Q32. Will the interpreter also help me if I need to talk to my lawyer?**

Interpretation costs for confidential communication between you and your lawyer are covered by the state.

**Q33. Why is the victim taking part in the trial?**

Victims are often called as witnesses, but they are not sworn in to tell truth. If the victim has suffered harm, their claims for compensation – which is a civil claim – is handled within the criminal proceedings. The victim is sometimes assisted by his/her own lawyer. Your public defender should also be defending you in relation to the civil claim.

If the claim is considered to be too complicated, the court may separate it from the criminal case. You will lose your public defender for this part of your legal proceedings, and you may negotiate with the same (or a different) lawyer to represent you in the civil case.

**Q34. Will I be informed of the decision of the court on the day of the trial?**

The court sometimes delivers its decision on the day of the trial, and this is interpreted to you immediately, if you do not speak Swedish.

In complicated cases, the court may (and it often does) decide to give the verdict at a later date. If this happens, the verdict is not read out in the courtroom. It is important to have an interpreter booked in advance when the verdict is presented to you in Swedish (often one or two weeks after the trial).

**Q35. Can I receive a copy of the judgment in my mother tongue?**

The court should provide a copy of the judgments in a language you understand, but you should ask the lawyer to remind the court of this obligation.

The translated judgment is often made available long after the judgment comes into force, and this is why it is important to have an interpreter scheduled when the judgment is given in Swedish (which sometimes is during the main hearing, but more often one or two weeks later). For this reason it may sometimes be sufficient to have the verdict from the first instance interpreted instead of translated.

**Q36. I was tried in my absence and was not informed of this, what can I do?**

The court may not sentence you unless they have proof that you have been made aware of the allegations and the specified time for the main hearing.

If you, regardless this, have been convicted in absentia you need to contact a local lawyer to challenge the verdict as soon as possible.

## **6. APPEALS**

**Q37. I am not happy with the decision, can I appeal against it? How do I appeal?**

You can appeal against the District Court judgment in the Court of Appeal.

Your appeal must be made in writing, and it must be received by the District Court within three weeks of the date on which the judgment is pronounced. The final date for appeal is also specified in the judgment.

The District Court sends the appeal and all the documents in the case to the Court of Appeal, which re-hears the case.

In certain cases (in which you are sentenced to no more than fine), you will need special permission to appeal ('leave to appeal'), in order to get the Court of Appeal to hear the case.

New evidence can be presented during your Court of Appeal hearing. The Court of Appeal usually delivers a new verdict, but in certain exceptional cases, it can send the case back to the District Court for reconsideration.

The Court of Appeal is in practice the highest court in the majority of criminal cases. The Supreme Court can examine cases which are appealed from the Court of Appeal. Generally, leave to appeal is required for the Supreme Court to examine a case. Leave to appeal is granted if the Supreme Court judgment or decision could provide guidance on how other similar cases are to be adjudicated (in other words, it is a matter in which the court could be setting a 'precedent'). An assertion that the Court of Appeal has adjudicated the matter incorrectly is not normally sufficient reason for leave to appeal to be granted.

**Q39. Do I need to pay my lawyer more money if there is an appeal?**

Unless you have agreed on fees that will also cover an appeal, you will have to pay the additional fees that are incurred.



If the court has decided that your legal fees will be covered by the state (remember that even in such a case, you may have to reimburse the lawyer fees if you are found guilty), then this decision will also apply to appeal proceedings.

**Q40. What is the time frame for the appeal to take place?**

If you are subject to restrictions on your liberty (i.e. you are detained, or you are subject to travel restrictions), your appeal should be heard within a few months. If not, the main hearing may be held later than that, depending on the workload of the court.

**Q41. Could things get worse during the appeal? If I am acquitted, can the prosecution appeal?**

The prosecutor and/or the victim can appeal against the verdict in your case, even if you were acquitted. If you are the only one who appeals, you cannot end up with a worse outcome.

**7. PRISON CONDITIONS**

**Q43. Do I have rights as a prisoner? Where can I find out about my rights?**

As a prisoner you have some rights that cannot be taken away from you (including the right to food and water; to see your lawyer; to be protected from harassment; and to vote).

Your lawyer can provide you with more information on your rights.

**Q44. What can I do if my rights are violated? Where can I get assistance regarding my welfare issues, regarding abuse and mistreatment?**

If you believe that your rights are being violated, or that you are maltreated in other aspects, do not hesitate to contact the prison staff, who may be able to resolve many kinds of problems. If the prison staff are the cause of concern, then you should not hesitate to contact your lawyer, in case s/he can help in any way.

You can also write to the Parliamentary Ombudsman (JO), who is appointed by the Swedish Riksdag (parliament) to ensure that public authorities and their staff comply with the laws governing their actions.

## **8. POST-TRIAL MATTERS**

**Q46. Can I get my sentence reduced?**

Once you have exhausted all means of challenging your conviction and/or sentence through the courts, your sentence comes into force, and it can only be reduced under clemency from the government.

If you are given a prison sentence of six months or less, you may apply with the Swedish Prison and Probation Service to have the sentence enforced through intensive supervision using electronic tagging.

If you are sentenced to life imprisonment you can apply to have the sentence reviewed, after serving ten years.

**Q47. What would help me get an early release?**

Good conduct in prison will help to get an early release after serving two-thirds of your sentence.

**Q48. I have been sentenced to pay a fine, what will happen if I don't pay it?**

The state's claim against you for the fine will be sent to the Swedish Enforcement Authority, which will try to seize any available assets to recover the fine.

There are laws which provide the possibility of up to 3 months' prison sentence for non-payment of fines, but in practice, fines are rarely converted into prison sentences. This could happen if, for example, it is clear that you are obstructing the payment of your fines by hiding your assets. If you are unable to pay your fine, it is unlikely that the fine will be converted into a prison sentence unless you are sentenced multiple times for similar crimes.

**Q49. Can I ask for a transfer to my home country?**

You can be transferred to any country which has a transfer agreement with Sweden.

Please refer to our 'prisoner transfers' note of advice for more information.

**Q50. I have exhausted all legal remedies, is it still possible to get my case reviewed?**

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If there is new evidence or emerging circumstances which are likely to have resulted in your acquittal or a reduced sentence, had they been known at the time of judgment, you may have the right to a retrial. You need to seek legal assistance because it is usually very difficult to get your case reviewed.

**Q51. I have exhausted all legal remedies; can I apply for a pardon?**

The Government may pardon a convicted person or reduce their sentence by exercising clemency. Clemency is for use only in exceptional situations.

The Government decides whether or not to grant clemency after an independent assessment in each individual case. There is no legal right to clemency, and it is granted only under exceptional circumstances.

A clemency decision can mean that the convicted person is pardoned or that their sentence is reduced, a prison sentence could, for example, be shortened, or reduced to probation, a suspended sentence or a fine.

**Q52. Can I be expelled instead of serving my sentence?**

You cannot be expelled instead of serving your prison sentence, but if your deportation is ordered, this could have the effect of reducing your sentence by a little.

**Q53. Is there a risk that I will be deported after serving my sentence?**

If you are not a Swedish citizen, there is a risk that you could be deported after serving your sentence. You should ask for more information from your lawyer.

## USEFUL LINKS

ORGANISATION	MANDATE	CONTACT DETAILS
<b>LAW GOVERNING BODIES</b>		
<p><b>Sveriges Advokatsamfund</b></p> <p><i>(Swedish Bar Association)</i></p>	<p>The Swedish Bar Association is responsible for regulating the legal profession and membership is obligatory for all lawyers practicing in Sweden.</p> <p>The website provides a search tool to allow you to find a specialist lawyer in your area.</p> <p>If you wish to make a complaint about your lawyer, the website provides ways to contact the Bar Association's Disciplinary Committee.</p> <p>The Bar Association may also be able to provide details on local legal clinics ('<i>Advokatjour</i>'), at which may be able to get free, but limited legal advice.</p> <p><u>Languages:</u></p> <p>Swedish, English</p>	<p>Website: <a href="http://www.advokatsamfundet.se">www.advokatsamfundet.se</a></p> <p>E: <a href="mailto:info@advokatsamfundet.se">info@advokatsamfundet.se</a></p> <p>T: +46 (0)8 459 03 00 F: +46 (0)8 660 07 79</p> <p>Box 27321, 102 54 Stockholm</p>
<b>LEGAL AID</b>		
<p><b>Rättshjälpsmyndigheten</b></p> <p><i>(Legal Aid Authority)</i></p>	<p>The Legal Aid authority handles legal aid in Sweden. It also acts as the collection authority if the court decides that you need to reimburse the state for the costs of your lawyer. The Legal Aid authority can sometimes help you with a payment plan if you think you will have difficulties paying back the</p>	<p>Website: <a href="http://www.rattshjalp.se">www.rattshjalp.se</a></p> <p>E: <a href="mailto:rattshjalpsmyndigheten@dom.se">rattshjalpsmyndigheten@dom.se</a></p> <p>T: +46 (0)60 13 46 00</p>

ORGANISATION	MANDATE	CONTACT DETAILS
	fees.  <u>Languages:</u> Swedish, English, Meänkieli, Northern Sami, and Finnish	F: +46 (0)60 13 46 00  Box 853, 851 24 Sundsvall
<b>OMBUDSMEN</b>		
<b>JO – Riksdagens Ombudsmän</b>  <i>(Parliamentary Ombudsman)</i>	<p>The JO is appointed by the Swedish Parliament ('Riksdag') to ensure that public authorities comply with the laws that govern their actions, and that their actions do not violate the basic rights and freedoms and rights of individuals.</p> <p>The JO can issue statements and recommendations when public authorities have been found to have acted improperly, and it can sometimes assume the role of a prosecutor to take legal proceedings against public officials who have committed a criminal offence by failing to comply with their duties.</p> <p>The JO can receive complaints about most public authorities, including the Prison and Probations Service and government agencies. Complaints need to be made within two years of the event forms the basis of the complaint, and they cannot be made anonymously.</p> <p><u>Languages:</u> Swedish, English, Romani, Yiddish, Meänkieli, Northern Sami, and Finnish</p>	Website: <a href="http://www.jo.se">www.jo.se</a>  E: <a href="mailto:justitieombudsmannen@jo.se">justitieombudsmannen@jo.se</a>  T: +46 (0)8 786 40 00 F: +46 (0)8 786 40 00  V. Trädgårdsgatan 4A Box 16327 103 26 Stockholm

ORGANISATION	MANDATE	CONTACT DETAILS
<b>PRISON SERVICE</b>		
<b>Kriminalvården</b>  <i>(The Swedish Prison and Probation Service)</i>	<p>The Prison and Probation Service is responsible for implementing criminal sentences, and to supervise prisoners released on parole. It also provides opinions to courts about appropriate sentences for convicted criminals.</p> <p><u>Languages:</u> Swedish and English</p>	<p>Website:  <a href="http://www.kriminalvarden.se">www.kriminalvarden.se</a></p> <p>T: +46 (0)77 228 08 00  F: +46 (0)11 496 36 40</p> <p>Slottsgatan 78  601 80 Norrköping</p>
<b>INTERPRETERS</b>		
<b>Kammarkollegiet</b>  <i>(The Legal, Financial and Administrative Services Agency)</i>	<p>The Kammarkollegiet provides a database of authorised interpreters that can be searched by language and language skills.</p> <p><u>Languages:</u> Swedish and English</p>	<p>Website:  <a href="http://www.kammarkollegiet.se/node/740">www.kammarkollegiet.se/node/740</a> (English)   <a href="http://www.tolksregistret.se">www.tolksregistret.se</a> (Swedish)</p>
<b>NGOs</b>		
<b>HUMAN RIGHTS</b>		
<b>Civil Rights Defenders</b>	<p>Civil Rights Defenders is a non-governmental organisation that aims to defend human rights, and to empower human rights defenders at risk across the world. Civil Rights Defenders carries out advocacy and monitoring activities, and to educate the public so that they are able to exercise their human rights.</p>	<p>Website:  <a href="http://www.civilrightsdefenders.org">www.civilrightsdefenders.org</a></p> <p>E:  <a href="mailto:info@civilrightsdefenders.org">info@civilrightsdefenders.org</a></p> <p>T: +46 (0)8 545 277 30</p>



ORGANISATION	MANDATE	CONTACT DETAILS
	<u>Languages:</u> Website available in Swedish and English	F: +46 (0)8 411 68 55 Stora Nygatan 26 111 27 Stockholm

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**If you think that an important question is not covered in this fact sheet, please let us know.**

# FAIR TRIALS INTERNATIONAL

**Vision: A world where every person's right to a fair trial is respected.**

## THANK YOU

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