

Impact of the Assistance to and Protection of Victim and Witness Act to the Fair Trial Concept

RMI Ranatunga#

Sri Lanka Army

#jayanath.ranatunga@gmail.com

Protection of victims and witnesses is one of the important aspects in the criminal justice system. There is no doubt that it shall be the duty of the state to preserve the rights of the concerned parties by enacting effective legislative enactments. On the other hand, the concept of fair trials shall be upheld at every situation. There cannot be any derogation to this vital fair trial concept by any means. Provisions and practical application of the legislative enactment prevailing concerning protection of victims and witnesses contain provisions contrary to the fair trial concept. The possible recommendations on legal reforms and mechanisms to uphold the fair trial concept while focusing on the rights indicated within the concerned legislative enactment are addressed by this article.

Keywords: victims, witnesses, fair trials