

and Political Rights -- ratified by Australia -- provides that in "the determination of [...] his rights and obligations in a suit at law, everyone shall be entitled to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by law".

Under Article 14 (1) of the Covenant, the media and the public may not be excluded even from part of a proceedings, except for specific, narrowly-defined exceptions, including "when the interest of the private lives of the parties so requires, or to the extent strictly necessary in the opinion of the court in special circumstances where publicity would prejudice the interests of justice". The suppression of the name or identifying information of the man concerned -- who wishes the public to know about his case -- does not fall within any of these exceptions.

Proceedings to lift court orders prohibiting publication on the case are set to continue on 8 December.

"The Australian government's attempts at censoring this case are utterly deplorable. We cannot -- and will not -- stop campaigning against the deportation of an individual to somewhere where he could face serious human rights violations, or even death."

ENDS.../

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