

# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES

GREECE 1994

## THIRD COMMISSION

### The Criminal Judge and the Feeling of Public Insecurity

#### QUESTIONNAIRE

I. Is there a feeling of insecurity amongst the public?

1. Is it justified?

2. How does it show itself?

From the individual viewpoint, by attacks, or fear of attacks

– on persons

– on property

in public places?

on private property?

3. Is there any connection between this feeling and "justice" – in particular the criminal judge and the prosecuting authority.

N.B. We shall not be discussing military or political causes of insecurity although these may well exist.

II. In what respects is justice, and in particular the criminal judge, responsible for the feeling of public insecurity.

In particular

1. Unsolved cases:

Number

Nature



2. Delay.

3. Punishments that are considered inadequate.

Deal here with the intervention of other bodies:

- Failure to implement custodial sentences (reasons: principle; overcrowded prisons)
- Pardons and general amnesties.
- Premature release.

4. Devaluation of criminal convictions by reason of excessive proliferation of criminal offences.

5. Role of the media

Misinformation  
Sensationalisation.

III. Can the criminal judge remedy the situation? If so, how?

Role, scope and limitation of possible action by the judge.

1. In his capacity as judge:

- Accelerating procedure
- Implementing penalties
- Providing the citizen with better information. How?
- Relations with the media.

2. Having regard to his place and his role in society

Should he have more regard to and play a greater role in social welfare?

3. All other suggestions.