

**Why don't they want us to know our rights?  
Why don't they want us to know the whole truth?**

## **The Jury decides**

In 1670 a judge imprisoned a jury for giving a verdict that he didn't like. The jury was released and it was established in law that whatever verdict a jury returns the court must accept. A plaque commemorating this still sits in the Old Bailey.



*Paul Clarke, Creative Commons*

**But today some judges won't let barristers  
tell the jury about their rights. Why?**

**The government has been changing the law to  
limit what evidence a jury can hear. Why?**

**Why would any government remove trial by jury, an ancient  
tradition of deliberation that upholds democracy?**

In recent times some judges have been restricting the evidence that juries can hear. Defendants have been sent to prison for explaining why they carried out their actions. Some judges have threatened to remove the jury completely, or have threatened to send jurors to prison. Most recently the Lady Chief Justice, the most senior judge, has said she wants fewer people to get a jury trial.

**Tell your friends; **The Jury decides**, ordinary people decide.  
We cannot lose the right to a fair trial in front of a jury trial of our peers.**



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