

# ICCPR Article 21

## Freedom of peaceful assembly



Article 21 allows restrictions, if they are imposed in conformity with the law and necessary in a democratic society in the interests of:

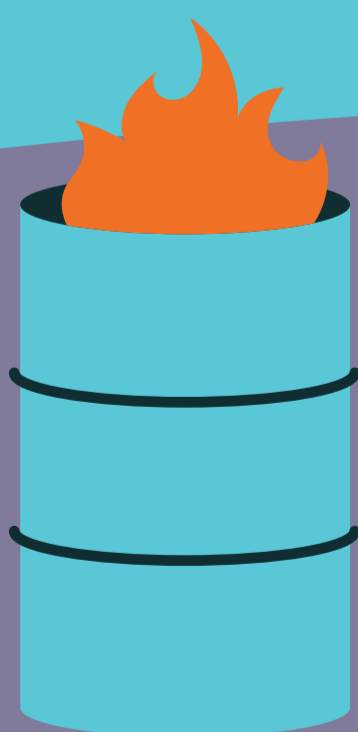


- I National security
- II Public safety
- III Public order (ordre public)
- IV Protection of:

- A. Public health
- B. Public morals
- C. The rights and freedoms of others

### Restrictions must:

- Be precise
- NOT confer unfettered or sweeping discretion on those charged with its enforcement
- Be interpreted narrowly and guided by the objective of facilitating the right
- Not be discriminatory or be aimed at discouraging participation or causing chilling effect
- Be necessary, proportionate and the least-intrusive measures
- Be content neutral i.e. must NOT be related to the message conveyed by the assembly



Attention! Assemblies that are NOT peaceful are NOT protected by article 21.

But isolated acts of violence by some participants should not be attributed to others, the organisers, or to the assembly as a whole.

Also refer:

[Checklist for monitoring illegitimate restrictions of ICCPR \(card No.2\)](#)