

# **PUBLIC GATHERINGS**

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## ***Demonstrations in or near Court Buildings Prohibition Act 71 of 1982***

**Summary:** This Act ([RSA GG 8221](#)) prohibits demonstrations and gatherings within a five-hundred-metre radius of a building containing a courtroom, except on weekends and public holidays.

**Applicability to SWA:** The Security Matters Proclamation (AG 29/1985) ([OG 5059](#)) made this Act applicable to South West Africa, with minor amendments.

**Transfer of administration to SWA:** This Act post-dated the transfer proclamations.

**Amendments:** Note that a portion of section 4 was *not* applied to SWA by AG 29/1985 ([OG 5059](#)). AG 29/1985 also amends section 2.

**Regulations:** The Act makes no provision for regulations.

## **Public Gatherings Proclamation, AG 23 of 1989**

**Summary:** This Proclamation ([OG 5756](#)) requires advance notice to the police of all public gatherings and prohibits the carrying of weapons (*other than* concealed pistols or revolvers). It also gives the police powers to place conditions on gatherings and to disperse riots. The Proclamation repeals portions of the Riotous Assemblies Act 17 of 1956.

**Regulations:** The Act makes no provision for regulations.

**Notices:** See General Notice 143/1992 ([GG 503](#)), which refers to the Proclamation in connection with guidelines for the holding of elections.

**Commentary:** Law Reform and Development Commission, *Report on Public Gatherings*, LRDC 14, 2006, available at [www.namiblii.org](http://www.namiblii.org).

See also *Criminal Law Amendment Act 8 of 1953* (offences committed in the course of protests) (**CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE**).

See also Labour Act 11 of 2007 (section 76(2) on picketing) (**LABOUR**).