

THE SEDITIONOUS MEETINGS ACT

Cap. 354.  
Law  
6 of 1961.  
Act  
42 of 1969  
3rd Sch.  
[1836.]

1. This Act may be cited as the Seditious Meetings Act. Short title.

2. When any Justice, or Officer as defined in section 2 of the Constabulary Force Act (in this Act referred to as an "Officer") shall receive information on oath, or have reasonable cause to suspect that any meeting or assembly is held for the purpose of stirring up or exciting any person or persons to commit any act of insurrection or insubordination, or to obtain otherwise than by lawful means any alteration or change in the constitution or government of this Island as by law established, or to commit the offence of administering or taking unlawful oaths, or for any seditious purpose whatsoever, every such Justice or Officer shall forthwith proceed to such meeting or assembly; and it shall be lawful for such Justice or Officer to require and take the assistance of any number of constables within the place wherein such meeting or assembly as hereinbefore mentioned shall be holden, or any other person or persons in their aid or assistance when they shall deem such aid or assistance to be necessary and requisite; and such Justice or Officer shall then and there order and direct, in Her Majesty's name, all and every the persons whom he shall find there assembled peaceably to disperse; and if any person or persons, notwithstanding they have been so ordered and directed to disperse, shall continue together by the space of half an hour after they shall have been so ordered and directed to disperse, then and in every such case the person or persons so continuing, on due proof

Power to  
disperse  
seditious  
meetings.  
6/1961  
S. 2.

Persons  
refusing  
to disperse  
deemed  
guilty of  
felony.

42/1969  
3rd Sch.

that such meeting was of a seditious or treasonable nature, being thereof legally convicted, shall be adjudged guilty of felony, and be liable to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a term not exceeding four years.

Punishment  
for opposing  
peace  
officers.

6/1961  
S. 2.

42/1969  
3rd Sch.

3. If any person or persons do or shall, with force and arms, wilfully and knowingly oppose, obstruct, or in any manner wilfully let, hinder, or hurt any such Justice or police officer or officers, or any person acting in aid or assistance of any Justice or Officer who shall attend to disperse any such meeting, or assembly as aforesaid, or shall be going to attend to disperse any such meeting or assembly; and also if any person so being at any such meeting or assembly as aforesaid shall, with force and arms wilfully and knowingly oppose, obstruct, or in any manner wilfully and knowingly let, hinder, or hurt any Justice or Officer or other person acting in their aid or assistance, in the arresting, apprehending, or taking into custody or detaining in execution of any person or persons offending against the provisions of this Act, or any person or persons endeavouring so to do; then and in every such case every person so offending, being thereof legally convicted, shall be adjudged guilty of felony, and be liable to imprisonment with or without hard labour for a term not exceeding four years.