

SPEEDY TRIALS SHOULDN'T BURY THE CAUSE OF JUSTICE: SC

Relevant for: Indian Polity | Topic: Judiciary in India: its Structure, Organization & Functioning, Judges of SC & High Courts, Judgments and related Issues

Speedy disposal of a case should not be at the cost of justice, the Supreme Court had said in a judgment setting aside the death penalty of a man in a rape and murder case.

The court found the man was convicted after a 12-day trial and without proper legal representation. In fact, a legal aid lawyer appointed for him was given no time to even prepare his defence.

Expeditious trials should not bury the cause of justice, said the three-judge Bench led by Justice U.U. Lalit.

“Expeditious disposal is undoubtedly required... However, the attempts to expedite the process should not be at the expense of the basic elements of fairness and the opportunity to the accused, on which postulates the entire criminal administration of justice is founded,” the judgment said. The Bench said “what is paramount is the cause of justice and keeping the basic ingredients which secure that as a core idea and ideal, the process may be expedited, but fast tracking of process must never ever result in burying the cause of justice.”

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