

Act No 2010-1192 of 11 October 2010 prohibiting the concealing of the face in public

Article 1

No one shall, in any public space, wear clothing designed to conceal the face.

Article 2

I – For the purposes of the application of Section 1, the public space shall be composed of the public highway and premises open to the public or used for the provision of a public service.

II - The prohibition set forth in Section 1 hereinabove shall not apply if such clothing is prescribed or authorised by legislative or regulatory provisions, is authorised to protect the anonymity of the person concerned, is justified for health reasons or on professional grounds, or is part of sporting, artistic or traditional festivities or events.

Article 3

Failure to comply with the prohibition set forth in Section 1 shall be punishable by the fine envisaged for offences of the second category. The duty to attend a citizenship course as referred to in 8° of Article 131-16 of the Penal Code may be ordered at the same time as, or in lieu of, the payment of a fine.

Article 4

Whosoever shall, by means of threats, duress or constraint, undue influence or misuse of authority, compel another person, by reason of the sex of said person, to conceal their face shall be liable to a punishment of one year's imprisonment and a fine of €30,000. When the offence is committed against a minor, the punishment shall be increased to two years' imprisonment and a fine of €60,000.

Article 5

The provisions of Articles 1 to 3 hereof shall come into force upon the expiry of a period of six months following the promulgation of this Act.

Article 6

This Act shall apply throughout the territory of the French Republic.

Article 7

The government shall lay before parliament a report on the application of this Act eighteen months after the publication hereof. Said report shall put forward the accompanying measures which have been implemented by the public authorities and specify the difficulties encountered