

Rights And Rights Don't Balance Out

IT is no wonder criminals are getting away with murder - they have more rights than their victims!

Thugs and hoodlums are entitled to:

- * Be informed of their rights when they're arrested
- * Be represented by an attorney at the taxpayers' expense
- * Free food, clothing and medical care while in custody
- * Plea bargain to a lesser charge. Often a murderer or rapist has the charge reduced to theft or burglary with the blessing of the judicial system
- * A speedy trial, although they may stretch their cases out for months or even years
- * Be present at proceedings and confront their

victims in court

- * Appeal to higher courts to lighten their sentence or overturn their conviction.

On the other hand, victims

- * Are attacked, robbed or murdered without warning
- * Face financial ruin because of medical costs or time lost due to injuries
- * Receive counselling only when limited Government funds are available
- * Can be excluded from the trial
- * Aren't allowed to confront the criminals unless they are called as witnesses at a trial
- * Cannot object to plea bargains
- * Endure unbearable frustration while proceedings are delayed.

UNCONCERNED PEOPLE, SWAKOPMUND