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## **LEGAL STATUS AND JURISDICTION OF THE JURY IN BUKOVYNA WITHIN INTERWAR ROMANIA (1918-1938)**

In November-December 1918 Romania occupied Bukovyna and it was later confirmed by Saint-Germain (September, 1919) and Sevres (August, 1920) Peace Treaties. One of the priority tasks for the Romanian Authority was to extend its judiciary over the annexed territory; therefore, on December, 19, 1918 according to the royal decree, the legislation of Romania on the judiciary was distributed in Bukovyna that provided for the formation of five-level judicial system consisting of justices' courts, tribunals, appeals chambers, the jury and the Higher Court of Cassation and Justice.

Under Art.105 of the Constitution of Romania, 1923 the jurisdiction of the jury extended to the cases of political crimes and crimes in the field of the press. On June, 25, 1924 a new law on the judiciary of Romania was adopted but it did not change radically the existing judicial system of that time.

The jury in Bukovyna under the Romanian interwar legislation consisted of two parts: the chamber (three representatives of the judiciary, among which

the head had to be an advisor of Appeals Chamber) and the jury (there were 12 of them and under the regulations of 1936 there were 9 of them). The task of the jury was to decide the fact of guilt or innocence and the task of the chamber was to conduct litigation and pronounce a final sentence based on the verdict of the jury.

The candidate for the position of the jury had to be a citizen of Romania, aged at least 25, have the full political and civil capacity and be able to read and write. The property qualification was also established – the annual income not less than 1500 lei. The alternative of this qualification was to work as a teacher or to be a retired military man. The persons who were suspected of a criminal case, defendant or convicted as well as the persons who were 60 or whose main type of activity was a physical work could not be jurors.

In February, 1938 the Romanian King Carol II abolished the democratic constitution of 1923 and issued a new totalitarian pro-fascist constitution that eliminated the jury.