

# Man Claims TV Fee Breaches Human Rights



<http://www.dfamily.com/philosophy/teach/hswtl/journal.html>

[What makes a public resource? Opening private homes for tax purposes. Our rights to use public resources and right to privacy.] American History - 1700s

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## Man Claims TV Fee Breaches Human Rights

<http://news1.iwon.com/odd/article/id/81607>|oddlyenough|04-15-2003::10:48|reuters.html

Apr 15, 10:40 am ET

LONDON (Reuters) - A British man angered at having to pay for a television license is taking the BBC and the government to court because he says the \$182 annual charge tramples on his human rights.

Jean-Jacques Marmont of Oxfordshire started proceedings at London's High Court on Monday, claiming the fee breaches his rights to freedom of expression under the European Convention of Human Rights.

[What human rights would be trampled upon by being forced to pay for a television license?  
Are you sure?]

He claims the license, issued by the British Broadcasting Corporation and mandatory in Britain for anybody using a television, amounts to harassment and infringes upon his private and family life.

[How is paying a television license harassment?  
How would a television license infringe upon your privacy?

How does the BBC know you have a TV?

How does the BBC know if the TV is color vs b/w?

How does the BBC know how many TVs you have?

Would you have to pay the same priced for a 21" vs a little 4" portable TV?

So, now we are getting somewhere. If you have a TV in the bedroom and one in the kitchen cupboard whose business is it you have a couple small TVs there?

If you do NOT have a TV @ all, how is the BBC going to know it?

Where does the proof lie? With you, to bring in photos of your house and swear you didn't move the TV just before the pictures were taken? Or with the BBC who sends someone around to snoop in the cupboards and under the dirty socks and stuff in the bedroom?

If you have not TV, or just a B/W one, is the BBC going to believe you?]

The BBC is the state broadcaster and is overwhelmingly funded by the more than \$3.1 billion a year it receives from the fee. It declined to comment on the case.

[The air waves. Whose are they?

A signal sent over the air waves belongs to whom?

Is it the government's business, speaking for the people, to determine how the air waves will be managed?

Do we need to first conclude regulations and laws made by government concerning air waves is "speaking for the people"?

If the government makes some rules concerning the air waves, does this over ride any rights we may have? Is it a trump card?

Is there a conflict between air wave usage and our rights?

If so, what are they?]

British households pay the \$182 a year to operate a color television and \$60.50 for a black and white television, while anyone over 75 is exempt from the charge.

[Did this form of funding make sense in it's conception (1946) when TVs were rare and color non-existent?

In 1946, what sort of tax was this?

Who would have had TVs in 1946?

Who would not have had TVs in 1946?

So, when a particular class has something the others cannot afford, and they pay a tax on top of it, it is a \*?? tax?

Today, just about everyone has one or more TVs and few have a B/W TV. Everyone pays the same amount for each color TV.

If everyone has 1 color TV, what sort of tax is that?

A family making \$10,000 a year pays 182/yr and a family making \$925,478/yr pays 182/yr. This is an example of a \*??? tax.

If poor families have 1 TV and the non poor class have several TVs pre household, this would be what sort of tax? \*????

In general purposes, what sort of tax do you prefer? Luxury, Regressive, Progressive, or Flat?

Any situations where you would prefer one to another?

What else would you like to say about taxes?

Should our homes be open to tax assessors?

Are we looking at a right (*Invasion of Privacy*)?

Property taxes. How is the Property value assessed?

Has Property taxes changed over time, as the TV license has changed over time?

Are property taxes desirable?

Are property taxes right?

What happens if you don't pay your property taxes?

Do you own your own property?

If the assessor estimates a maximum value for your property, or a maximum number of color television sets, and access to your privacy is completely voluntary, would that be acceptable?

In this country, Fox, MSNBC, ABC, etc, are funded by there advertising. PBS is funded by general funds (*our taxes*) and contributions. You see what England is

doing. How would you propose to fund TV stations?  
On December 16, 1773, the Boston Tea Party was organized as a protest being taxes without representation. Do we need a London TV Party?]

The first television license fee was introduced in 1946 -- at a price of \$3 a year.

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\*?? Luxury tax

\*??? Regressive tax

\*???? Progressive tax



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