

the guilty persons are liable to summary jurisdiction penalties of the first degree.

The dispositions of Article 299 are applicable as regards: the determining of the various culprits, the initiating of prosecutions against one or many of them, when the others cannot be prosecuted, the confiscation, the intervention of a Royal decree of interdiction and the greater penalties resulting thereof.

Article 9 of the Constitution guarantees liberty of opinion and of expression. The Government nevertheless reserves that according to the terms of this same article, it remains responsible for repressing abuses of a nature affecting public order.

The authors of defamation and scurrilous attacks against Government authorities will continue to be produced before the courts which alone will remain competent to judge the gravity of the offenses and inflict punishment in accordance with the law.

The Government, therefore, warns the public against calumnious rumours spread without scruples of any kind for electoral purposes.

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