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War Crimes  
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Watch

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*A Global Pro Bono Law Firm*

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War Crimes Prosecution Watch is a bi-weekly e-newsletter that compiles official documents and articles from major news sources detailing and analyzing salient issues pertaining to the investigation and prosecution of war crimes throughout the world. To subscribe, please email [warcrimewatcheditors@case.edu](mailto:warcrimewatcheditors@case.edu) and type "subscribe" in the subject line.

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## **AFRICA**

### **CENTRAL AFRICA**

## **Sudan & South Sudan**

**Official Website of the International Criminal Court  
ICC Public Documents - Situation in Darfur, Sudan**

**South Sudan vice-president charged with murder and treason (BBC)** By Joseph Winter and Nichola Mandil  
September 12, 2025

**South Sudan's First Vice-President Riek Machar has been charged with murder, treason and crimes against humanity in a move that some fear could reignite the country's civil war. Justice Minister Joseph Geng Akech said the charges against Machar relate to an attack in March by a militia allegedly linked to the vice-president, which killed 250 soldiers and a general.**

Machar's spokesperson has condemned the move as a "political witch-hunt".

The roads leading to Machar's house in the capital, Juba, have been blocked by tanks and soldiers.

Forces loyal to Machar fought a five-year civil war against those backing President Salva Kiir until a 2018 peace deal ending the fighting in the world's newest country.

Machar has been under house arrest since March, with the UN, African Union and neighbouring countries all calling for calm.

Why fears are growing of a return of civil war to South Sudan

The 2018 peace deal ended the conflict that had killed nearly 400,000 people, however the relationship between Machar and Kiir has become increasingly strained amid ethnic tensions and sporadic violence.

Seven others have been charged alongside Machar, including Petroleum Minister Puot Kang Chol and Army Deputy Chief of Staff Lt Gen Gabriel Duop Lam, Justice Minister Joseph Geng Akech said in a statement.

They are all Machar allies who were arrested at the same time as him and have also been in detention ever since. Another 13 suspects remain at large, the minister said.

Machar and Chol have also been suspended from their government roles, according to an announcement on state TV.

Machar's spokesperson Puok Both Baluang said the whole crisis had been fabricated by Kiir's allies and was "designed to dismantle the peace agreement".

He further said that South Sudan's judicial system was not independent, "operating instead as politically directed courts".

The March attack was carried out by the White Army militia, largely made up of fighters from the Nuer ethnic group, the same as Machar, long-time rivals of Kiir's Dinka community. The White Army overran an army base in the north-eastern town of Nasir. A UN helicopter also came under fire, leading to the death of its pilot.

"This case sends a clear message: those who commit atrocities against the people of South Sudan, against our armed forces, and against humanitarian personnel will be held accountable, no matter their position or political influence," the justice minister said.

He added that as the matter was now before the courts, it should not be subject to political or diplomatic debate until a judicial pronouncement is made.

Machar has not commented on the allegation that he was behind the attack.

South Sudan gained its independence from Sudan in 2011 following decades of conflict which devastated the country.

But within two years, civil war broke out.

**Sudan crisis: Surge in summary executions by all warring parties (UN News) September 19, 2025**

**At least 75 people have been killed, according to news reports, in a drone strike on a mosque during morning prayers in El Fasher city, in the west of the war-torn country.**

Images from the site of the strike show mangled metal roofing that used to provide cover for worshippers; it comes as the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces – or RSF – continue their push to take control of El Fasher, as they battle forces of the military government.

The UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Sudan, Denise Brown, issued a statement saying she was gravely alarmed by the strike in the besieged capital of North Darfur state.

Call for accountability

"International humanitarian law demands the protection of mosques and the civilians worshipping in them," she said.

"It is also a war crime to intentionally direct attacks against buildings dedicated to religion. This attack, reportedly carried out by the Rapid Support Forces, must be investigated and the perpetrators held accountable."

UN Spokesperson Stéphane Dujarric reiterated the longstanding call for “an immediate cessation of fire in and around El Fasher,” adding that humanitarian access access for “personnel and supplies must be facilitated in order for us to reach those in need.”

### Civilian deaths mount

In a related development, the UN human rights office, OHCHR, warned that there’s been a sharp rise in civilian killings, including summary executions, along with growing ethnic violence in Sudan.

Several major offensives have been particularly deadly, including an April attack by the RSF on besieged El Fasher and elsewhere in North Darfur that left at least 527 dead, and airstrikes in March by the Sudanese Armed Forces on Tora market in North Darfur that killed at least 350 civilians, including 13 members of one family.

The situation in El Fasher is dire and worsening, said OHCHR’s Li Fung, who said reports continue of civilians being killed, abducted or subjected to sexual violence while fleeing the city. “There are no safe exit routes out of the city, and civilians are trapped in a situation of impossible choices: stay in El Fasher, and risk bombardment, starvation, and atrocities if the RSF overrun the city; or flee, and face the risk of summary execution, sexual violence, and abduction.”

The Sudan war began in April 2023 when the peaceful transition to civilian rule broke down and fighting erupted between the former allies-turned deadly rivals.

Since then, not a single ceasefire has been acted on by either of the warring parties, noted UN partner, the International Committee of the Red Cross, ICRC.

### Call for diplomacy in New York

It issued an appeal to world leaders preparing to gather at the UN in New York for the UN General Assembly starting next week to agree on ways to alleviate the suffering of the Sudanese people, who are facing famine and a massive humanitarian disaster.

ICRC Regional Director for Africa Patrick Youssef urged “a coalition of States” to work on “alternatives or incentives” to warfare including the creation of safe humanitarian corridors. In the last two years, more than 20 Sudanese Red Crescent workers have been killed, reflecting “the dire situation of humanitarians trying to cross every frontline in Sudan,” Mr. Youssef told journalists in Geneva.

**South Sudan's suspended vice president appears in court on treason charges (ABC News)** By Deng Machol  
September 22, 2025

### **The criminal trial of South Sudan's suspended vice president began in the capital Monday as Riek Machar appeared in a cage alongside his co-defendants.**

It was the first time Machar had been seen in public since he was placed under house arrest in March.

President Salva Kiir suspended Machar as his deputy earlier this month after justice authorities filed criminal charges for Machar's alleged role in an attack on a garrison of government troops earlier this year.

In addition to treason, Machar and seven others face charges of crimes against humanity, murder, conspiracy, terrorism, destruction of public property and military assets.

The trial by a special court in Juba, the capital, was broadcast on national television. In opening remarks, a lawyer for Machar opposed the trial by what he described as “an incompetent court” that lacks jurisdiction.

The defense argued Machar cannot be criminally charged without hurting the spirit of a 2018 peace deal between Machar and Kiir to end a deadly civil war that caused an estimated 400,000 people. That agreement is the basis for the transitional government in which Machar has been serving as first vice president.

Defense attorneys said the agreement effectively governs South Sudan, which has been on the brink of a return to full-blown war as government forces battle armed groups believed to be loyal to Machar.

They argued Machar remains the country's vice president under the provisions of the 2018 agreement, which was negotiated with the help of regional leaders and others in the international community.

The proceedings were then adjourned until Tuesday.

Kiir and Machar were leaders of the rebel movement that secured South Sudan's independence from Sudan in 2011. They are from rival ethnic groups: Kiir is from the Dinka, the largest, and Machar is from the Nuer, the second-largest.

Their military rivalry began in the 1990s, when Machar led a breakaway unit that drew accusations he had betrayed the rebel movement. During the split, forces loyal to Machar carried out a massacre in the town of Bor that targeted the Dinka, angering rebel commander Kiir and John Garang, the movement's now-deceased political figurehead. Fighting among southerners briefly undermined their struggle for independence, but also sowed lifelong distrust between Kiir and Machar.

Machar and Kiir don't see eye to eye even as they work together, analysts said, and their feud has grown over the years as Machar waits his turn to become president while Kiir persists in the office.

The criminal case against Machar appeared to be "a pretext for a political power struggle," said Daniel Akech, a senior analyst for South Sudan with the International Crisis Group. "This makes the case political," he said.

Presidential elections in South Sudan have been repeatedly postponed. In 2013, citing a coup plot, Kiir fired Machar as his deputy. Later that year violence erupted in Juba as government soldiers loyal to Kiir fought those devoted to Machar in the start of what became a deadly civil war. The fighting was often along ethnic lines.

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## **Democratic Republic of the Congo**

**Official Website of the International Criminal Court**

**ICC Public Documents - Situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

**Verdict in war crimes trial of ex-DRC president Joseph Kabila delayed (Africanews)**

September 13, 2025

**Judges in the war crimes trial of the DRC's former president, Joseph Kabila, have postponed their verdict until September 19 in order to consider new evidence.**

A last minute twist in the war crimes trial of Joseph Kabila on Friday, as judges at the High Military Court in the Democratic Republic of the Congo postponed their verdict by a week.

The former president is accused of conspiring with the Rwanda-backed M23 paramilitary group and faces the death penalty if convicted.

The delay came after lawyers representing the state asked judges to review new evidence, including witnesses testimony they say can tie Kabila to bank accounts allegedly used to finance M23. The lawyers also asked that charges of treason be reclassified as espionage, after raising doubt about Kabila's nationality.

The Court ruled the evidence admissible and postponed the hearing until September 19. Kabila, who led Congo from 2001 to 2019, has been on trial since July. He also faces charges of murder and rape.

He had been in self-imposed exile since 2023 but in April arrived in the eastern city of Goma after its capture by rebels. His current location is unknown and he is being tried in absentia. His supporters say the trial is politically motivated. Kabila's presidential immunity was revoked in May.

**Tshisekedi Calls Congo Atrocities Genocide, Urges Action (Bloomberg)** By Michael J.

Kavanaugh

September 22, 2025

**The Democratic Republic of Congo President Felix Tshisekedi said atrocities committed in the country over the past three decades met the threshold of genocide under international law and should be investigated.**

Tshisekedi urged the United Nations and the international community to support a “truth mechanism” to document the crimes, which, he said, are ongoing.

“Recognizing genocide means protecting the future by refusing to forget,” Tshisekedi said Monday in New York at an event he hosted on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly meetings.

Congo has grappled with violence in its eastern regions since the aftermath of the 1994 Rwandan genocide spilled across the border. Successive wars left millions dead — largely due to preventable disease and famine — and conflict persists today.

Tshisekedi is struggling to fight dozens of armed groups and end a four-year rebellion by Rwanda-backed M23 rebels, who occupy part of mineral-rich eastern Congo. Rwanda has denied supporting the group.

About 5.3 million people are displaced in Congo, mainly due to conflict in the east, according to the UN.

Sexual violence has reached “an unprecedented level” in the region, said Pramila Patten, UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict. Since the beginning of the year, a child is raped every half hour in eastern Congo, she said.

“The population is paying an unbearable human price,” Tshisekedi said.

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## WEST AFRICA

### Mali

**Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger announce exit from International Criminal Court (Reuters)** By Robbie Corey-Boulet  
September 23, 2025

**The military-led West African countries Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger have announced their withdrawal from the International Criminal Court, denouncing it as "a tool of neocolonial repression."**

The announcement, in a joint statement published on Monday, is the latest example of diplomatic upheaval in West Africa's Sahel region following eight coups between 2020 and 2023.

The three countries, which are ruled by military officers, have already split from the West African regional bloc ECOWAS and formed a body known as the Alliance of Sahel States. They have also curbed defence cooperation with Western powers and sought closer ties with Russia.

Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger have been members of the ICC, located in The Hague, for more than two decades. But their statement said they viewed the court as incapable of prosecuting war crimes, crimes against humanity, crimes of aggression and genocide. It did not specify examples of where the countries believed the ICC had fallen short.

The three countries are battling Islamist militant groups that control large swathes of territory and have staged frequent attacks on military installations this year.

Human Rights Watch and other groups have accused the militants as well as the militaries and partner forces

of Burkina Faso and Mali of possible atrocity crimes.

In April, United Nations experts said the alleged summary execution of several dozen civilians by Malian forces may amount to war crimes.

The ICC has had an investigation open in Mali since 2013 over alleged war crimes committed primarily in the northern regions of Gao, Timbuktu and Kidal, which had fallen under militant control. Later that year, France intervened to push back the insurgents.

The Mali investigation was opened following a referral from the government at the time.

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## EAST AFRICA

### Uganda

**ICC hears war crimes case against Ugandan rebel leader (BBC)** By Anna Holligan  
September 9, 2025

**The International Criminal Court (ICC) has opened its war crimes case against fugitive Ugandan rebel leader Joseph Kony in its first-ever confirmation of charges hearing without the accused present.**

The proceedings mark a historic moment for the court and could serve as a test case for future prosecutions of high-profile suspects who currently appear to be beyond its reach.

Despite an arrest warrant issued 20 years ago, Kony, the founder and leader of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), has managed to evade arrest.

He faces 39 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, including murder, sexual enslavement, abduction and forcing thousands of children to fight as soldiers in the LRA.

Kony said he wanted to install a government based on the biblical 10 commandments, and he was fighting for the rights of the Acholi people in northern Uganda.

But his rebel group was notorious for hacking off their victims' limbs or parts of their faces.

Despite those efforts, and years of manhunts, he remains a fugitive.

There was silence in the courtroom as the catalogue of charges against him were read out.

They also cover gender-based crimes linked to the treatment of thousands of women and girls, including their enslavement, rape, forced marriage and pregnancy.

The atrocities were allegedly committed in northern Uganda between 2003 and 2004.

"Unfortunately the tentacles of international justice, even though they are lengthy, have not been sufficient to ensure the efficient arrest of fugitives," said the ICC's deputy prosecutor, Mame Mandiaye Niang, at the opening of the case.

"Many victims who had the strength to survive the horrors of civil war have not survived this lengthy wait, others have lost patience, but there are some who have waited for this moment," she added.

According to the prosecution, children were regularly kidnapped on their way to school, from the fields,

deprived of their fundamental rights, and forced to kill for Kony's rebel group.

For the first time, the ICC is exercising its power under the Rome Statute, its founding treaty, to move forward without a suspect in custody.

Judges will hear the arguments of the prosecution, defence and representatives of victims. Kony will be represented in absentia by a court-appointed lawyer, before judges decide whether to confirm the charges.

A trial itself, however, cannot begin unless Kony is arrested, and present in court in The Hague.

Legal experts say the hearing could set a precedent for how the ICC handles other fugitives unlikely to be detained.

For survivors of the LRA's violence, the hearing is being watched closely, albeit remotely, on a big screen set up by ICC teams in northern Uganda.

Rights advocates say it validates the suffering of thousands of people who endured the rebel group's reign of terror.

"This is about recognition," said one survivor. "Even if Kony is not in custody, the world is hearing what happened to our communities."

In the case of the LRA, the deputy prosecutor pointed out the scars cut through communities in which "the victim became the perpetrator", but Kony, he said, "remained the main perpetrator until the end."

The LRA was forced out of Uganda by the army in 2005, and the rebels went into what was then Sudan (now South Sudan) and eventually set up camp in the border area with the Democratic Republic of Congo.

They later moved to the Central African Republic, where it is understood they engaged in poaching and illegal mining.

There were attempts by the Ugandan government to strike a peace deal with Kony, but talks fell apart in 2008 because the LRA leader wanted assurances that he and his allies would not be prosecuted.

The ICC's decision to press forward without him present underscores its determination to pursue accountability, even when arrests are difficult to achieve.

The move also highlights the fact that with few other trials in progress, this presents an opportunity to demonstrate that the embattled court is still able to function.

The ICC's top prosecutor is currently on leave while sexual misconduct allegations are investigated, and a series of crippling sanctions have been imposed by the US in response to the ICC issuing arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defence minister.

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## Somalia

### **Somalia: Somali Court Sentences Woman to 16 Years for Financing Al-Shabaab**

**(AllAfrica)** By Shabelle Media Network (Mogadishu)

September 18, 2025

**A Somali court has sentenced a woman to 16 years in prison for financing terrorism and laundering illicit funds linked to the al-Qaeda affiliated group al-Shabaab, judicial officials said on Thursday.**

The Banadir Regional Court found Caasho Macalin Mursal Ali guilty of multiple serious offenses, including funding terrorist operations, laundering illegal money, and supporting armed attacks that targeted civilians and destabilized the country.

According to prosecutors, financial investigations revealed that Ali funneled a total of \$2,120,621 through her personal bank account to finance militant operations.

The court ruled that the funds were used to support terrorist activities, including bombings, assassinations, political destabilization, and payment for attacks aimed at Somali civilians. In addition to the 16-year prison sentence, Ali was fined \$20,000, had her bank accounts frozen, and all her assets were ordered seized and transferred to the state as compensation for the damages caused.

The Office of the Attorney General emphasized its commitment to combating terrorism financing and cracking down on illegal financial networks operating within Somalia. In a statement, the office warned that anyone involved in financing or facilitating terrorism would be prosecuted and held accountable under the full force of the law.

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## EUROPE

### Kosovo Specialist Chambers

#### **US Ex-Diplomat Testifies for Defence in War Crimes Trial of Kosovo's Thaci (Balkans Transitional Justice)** By Xhorxhina Bami

September 15, 2025

**James Rubin, the former right-hand man of US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, started his testimony at the Kosovo Specialist Chambers in The Hague on Monday, marking the start of the defence's case in the trial of Hashim Thaci and three co-defendants for war crimes and crimes against humanity.**

His testimony bolstered the defence's case that the four men, despite being senior leaders of the Kosovo Liberation Army, KLA, did not directly command fighters on the ground who may have committed crimes.

Rubin was present during the failed March 1999 Rambouillet talks for peace between Kosovo and Serbia as well as during the discussions on the ground for the demilitarisation of Kosovo and the establishment of new institutions after the war.

He testified that at the time of Rambouillet, the US did not have much knowledge of the KLA, which he said was not a well-organised force. He told the court that Albright assigned him to get to know Thaci as the leader of the Kosovo delegation at the talks.

Rubin explained that Thaci had the role of some kind of foreign minister with a "political role", who could sign deals, but "did not have authority to decide on anything" because "he didn't have the capability or the knowledge to make decisions".

The US diplomat said that Thaci "was a reflection of the leadership of the [KLA] movement and not in charge of that movement".

He told the court that the battlefield commanders were in charge and made the decisions.

"They told [Thaci] what to do, he didn't tell them what to do," Rubin emphasised. He said that unless a decision was insignificant, Thaci could not take it without first discussing it with and getting approval from KLA commanders, who were not only older, but had much more authority, he said.

Rubin testified that Thaci and his co-defendants were what he called “moderates” within the KLA who wanted to find a solution that would avoid more bloodshed.

He told the court that while he was in the US government, until 2000, there was been no evidence that allegations of crimes committed by KLA leaders such as Thaci and co-defendant Jakup Krasniqi were true.

Thaci, Krasniqi, Rexhep Selimi and Kadri Veseli are accused of having individual and command responsibility for crimes committed against prisoners held at KLA detention facilities in Kosovo and neighbouring Albania, including 102 murders. The crimes were allegedly committed during and just after the war in 1998 and 1999.

The men’s lawyers claim that the defendants cannot be held accountable for the alleged crimes of the lower-ranking fighters because the KLA was a grassroots movement, with decision-making coming from commanders on the ground.

Prosecutors disagree, insisting the KLA leadership had effective control over those who carried out crimes.

The Kosovo Specialist Chambers are part of Kosovo’s justice system but based in The Hague with an international staff to ensure fair proceedings after witness intimidation problems in previous KLA-related cases.

Many prosecution witnesses have testified behind closed doors to protect their identities due to fears of reprisals, but this has led to allegations of a lack of transparency.

Many ethnic Albanians and KLA supporters insist that the proceedings have been unfair to the defendants.

Before the defence case opened, hundreds of ethnic Albanians and KLA veterans from across Europe and the US staged a protest rally on Sunday in The Hague, calling for the defendants to be freed.

Thaci was indicted in October 2020 and resigned as president the following month. He and the other three defendant have been in detention in The Hague since then.

The court has told BIRN that Thaci will call 11 witnesses, while former parliament speaker Krasniqi will call two. The judging panel has set November 14 as an estimated closing date for the defence case. After closing statements, the panel has 90 days to consider its verdict, suggesting that it may be delivered in spring 2026.

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## MIDDLE-EAST

### Iraq

#### **Grotian Moment: The International War Crimes Trial Blog**

**Accused French Islamic State members held in Syria sent to Iraq for trial, officials say (AP News)** By Qassim Abdul-Zaharia  
September 18, 2025

**Forty-seven French citizens who had been held in detention in northeast Syria on suspicion of being members of the Islamic State group have been handed over to Iraq for prosecution, Iraqi security officials said.**

Three Iraqi security officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly told The Associated Press on Thursday that the French prisoners will be tried on terrorism charges in Iraq.

They had been held in one of a network of detention centers in northeast Syria housing some 9,000 accused IS members guarded by the U.S.-backed, Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, before they were handed over to Iraq a month and a half ago, the officials said. Their transfer had not been previously reported.

French officials could not be immediately reached for comment.

It's not the first time French citizens accused of being IS militants have been sent from Syria to Iraq for trial. In 2019, 13 suspected French militants were transferred to Iraq from Syria for trial. Thousands of Iraqi citizens detained in Syria have also been extradited for trial.

In total, the Iraqi officials said, 3,192 inmates have been handed over to Iraq by the SDF, of whom 724 were sentenced to death and 1,381 to life imprisonment.

The question of the fate of the detention centers in northeast Syria — as well as that of the al-Hol and al-Roj camps that house tens of thousands of people with alleged ties to IS, most of them wives and children of militants — has loomed large since the fall of former Syrian President Bashar Assad in a lightning rebel offensive in December.

Under a deal inked in March between the SDF and the new authorities in Damascus, the SDF is supposed to eventually turn over management of the camps and detention centers to Damascus, but progress on implementation has been slow.

The U.S. military has been pushing for years for countries who have citizens at the camps and detention centers to repatriate them.

On Wednesday, France announced that it had returned three French women and ten children who were in camps in northeastern Syria.

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## **Gulf Region**

### **Qatar says it is pursuing legal action against Israel at ICC (The Jerusalem Post)**

September 17, 2025

#### **Qatar plans to pursue legal action against Israel in the International Criminal Court after the IDF struck senior Hamas officials in Doha, officials from the Gulf State said on Wednesday.**

Qatari State Minister Dr. Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi and other Qatari representatives met with ICC deputy prosecutor Nazhat Khan on Wednesday and held two meetings on avenues to prosecute Israel.

Al-Khulaifi is leading the Qatari legal team to legally challenge Israel for its "aggression against the State of Qatar."

"During the two meetings, I reaffirmed Qatar's commitment to supporting the path of international justice and ensuring that those who committed crimes are held accountable and do not escape punishment under the framework of international criminal law," he wrote.

IDF strikes Hamas leaders in Doha.

This comes after the IDF struck several Hamas leaders in Doha earlier this month. Hamas says that five of its members died in the strike.

After two years of Qatar hosting negotiations between Israel and Hamas over hostage exchanges and ceasefires, the government reached the decision that killing the remaining Hamas leaders was more important than leaving that diplomatic channel open.

An IDF statement said that the leaders targeted were responsible for the October 7, 2023, massacre of around 1,200 Israelis in the country's South, as well as managing the terror group's operations for years before that. Khalil al-Hayya, the leader of Hamas, was one of the key targets of the operation, an Israeli official confirmed to The Jerusalem Post.

Other Israeli sources told the Post that senior Hamas officials were killed in the strike in Doha, estimating that there were between four and eight senior officials in Hayya's secret apartment at the moment it was bombed.

Notably, several Israeli security officials did not support the airstrike and believed that it would harm negotiations for a hostage deal and a ceasefire in Gaza.

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## AMERICAS

### Venezuela

**Venezuela: The only hope for victims to find justice lies with the international community, says UN Fact-Finding Mission (United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner) September 22, 2025**

**Warning that politically motivated persecution is intensifying, the UN Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela said in a new report today that the only hope to find justice for victims lies with the international community.**

The report, which will be presented to the Human Rights Council this morning, reveals new evidence of the harsh post-election repression following the 28 July 2024 presidential election, and warns that politically motivated persecution, including against those who defend human rights and fundamental freedoms has continued in 2025.

The Fact-Finding Mission has concluded that, of the 25 protest-related deaths that occurred between 29 and 30 July 2024, State security forces were involved in at least 12 of them. In the protests in the city of Maracay, Aragua State, members of the Bolivarian National Guard and the 99th Army Brigade fired live ammunition on demonstrators. Six people were killed during those events. One of them was shot with a shotgun from less than 10 meter away.

“The Office of the Attorney General has not publicly provided information on the progress or conclusions of the investigations it claimed to have initiated into these incidents, even though it initially asserted that State agents bore no responsibility for the deaths and instead blamed the opposition,” said Marta Valiñas, chair of the Fact-Finding Mission. “However, our investigation has revealed the contrary, and, to date, all of the deaths remain in impunity.”

The Fact-Finding Mission investigated the deaths in State custody deaths of five people who were detained during the 2024 and 2025 protests. In two of these cases, the Mission found reasonable grounds to believe that the State failed to act with due diligence by not providing timely and adequate health care to detainees. These individuals were subjected to cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment.

“The State has a heightened obligation to guarantee the life, personal integrity of every person in its custody. The deaths of detainees following the presidential elections, due to the deterioration of their health in prison, constitute arbitrary deprivation of life,” said Patricia Tappatá, expert of the Fact-Finding Mission. “In addition to the deaths themselves, families have been mistreated, no investigation has been initiated, international protocols have not been applied, and this has occurred with the complicity of other institutions such as the Attorney General’s Office and the Ombudsman’s Office.”

Authorities gradually released 2,006 of the 2,220 people detained during the 2024 post-electoral protests, but simultaneously continued with repression and selective arrests. The Mission has documented at least 200 new detentions of critical voices, opposition figures or perceived as such.

A record number of foreign nationals have been detained and held under prolonged and strict incommunicado detention, in violation of international law. This amounts to enforced disappearances, some lasting for more than six months.

The Fact-Finding Mission’s report also reveals that at least 220 children, between 13 and 17 years old, were detained as part of this pattern of repression following the 28 July 2024 elections. During their detention, and without regard to their age or best interests, they were subjected to incommunicado detention, cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, acts of sexual violence, and violations of of due process guarantees Four adolescents are still being held in the states of La Guaira and Lara.

“Detentions in 2025 continued against opposition members or those perceived as such, just like in 2024, with arrests carried out without legal basis or judicial warrants, frequently by masked individuals without official identification. Criminal cases continue to be fabricated, and the principles of a fair trial are gravely violated with total impunity and the complicity of the judiciary,” stressed Francisco Cox, expert of the Fact-Finding Mission. “Given the submission of the judiciary to the executive, the only hope for obtaining justice for victims in Venezuela lies with the international community.”

Security forces used plastic bags to suffocate detainees and subjected them to beatings, kicks, punches, or blows with bats, regardless of their age or gender. Acts of sexual torture were also committed, including threats of rape and the use of electric shocks to the genitals. Courts ignored complaints about these acts, as did the Ombudsman’s Office and the Attorney General’s Office, which did not initiate any investigation.

The State’s repressive machinery continues to suffocate Venezuelan civil society, whether or not aligned with the opposition. The legal framework adopted in recent months, through the “NGO Financing Law” and the “Simón Bolívar Law,” has forced many organizations to limit their programs or even shut them down. The disproportionate measures and sanctions contained in these laws, as well as the highly discretionary power they grant to the authorities, makes these laws further instruments of the State’s repressive apparatus.

“The evidence obtained by the Fact-Finding Mission during this investigative cycle confirms that the crime of persecution on political grounds continues to be committed in Venezuela, with no national authority demonstrating the will to prevent, prosecute, or punish the serious human rights violations that amount to this international crime,” concluded Marta Valiñas.

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## TOPICS

# Truth and Reconciliation Commission

**Colombia court sentences 12 ex-soldiers to reparations work for executions (Reuters)** By

Julia Symmes Cobb

September 18, 2025

**BOGOTA, Sept 18 (Reuters) - A special Colombian court created under a 2016 peace deal on Thursday sentenced 12 former soldiers to eight years of reparations work for their role in the extrajudicial executions of 135 people.**

The sentences were the first given to former members of the military by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, or JEP, which is trying leaders from both the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, rebels and the military for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Earlier this week, the same court sentenced seven former leaders of the FARC guerrillas to a maximum of eight years of reparations for the group's policy of kidnapping for ransom.

"With this sentence imposed on members of the military, we recognize and insist on a truth that for years was denied, hidden and silenced," JEP president Alejandro Ramelli said before the decision was read, thanking the victims who participated in the case.

"Those who will be sentenced today have had to face justice, and the country's victims, they have faced the error that they committed," Ramelli said. "In many cases, they revealed truths that their own families did not know."

At least 6,402 people were killed in so-called "false positives" murders nationwide between 2002 and 2008, according to the JEP, though victims groups say the figure is higher.

Soldiers, eager to earn benefits like promotions and time off, lured civilians with promises of work, then killed them and reported them as rebels killed in combat the court said. Some of the victims had intellectual disabilities.

Dozens of army officials have been detained and convicted for "false positives" under the regular justice system and some of the victims, whose remains have not been returned to their families, are considered disappeared.

The court said that those sentenced on Thursday committed 135 "false positives" murders and disappearances when they were members of the La Popa battalion, which operated on Colombia's northern Caribbean coast, between January 2002 and July 2005.

Among the victims were members of the Wiwa and Kankuamo Indigenous communities, whose ancestral territory became a hub of drug trafficking activities by both right-wing paramilitaries and leftist guerrillas beginning in the 1990s.

Some of the men will only serve five years because they have already done prison time for the killings after convictions in normal courts, Magistrate Ana Manuela Ochoa said during her summary of the sentence, flanked by four other judges.

The 12 include retired majors and lieutenants, as well as lower-ranking soldiers. They are: Guillermo Gutierrez Riveros, Heber Hernan Gomez Naranjo, Efrain Andrade Perea, Manuel Valentin Padilla Espitia, Carlos Andres Lora Cabrales, Eduart Gustavo Alvarez Mejia, Jose de Jesus Rueda Quintero, Elkin Leonardo Burgos Suarez, Elkin Rojas, Juan Carlos Soto Sepulveda, Yeris Andres Gomez Coronel and Alex Jose Mercado Sierra.

## RECOGNITION OF RESPONSIBILITY

All have recognized their responsibility for the killings and provided a truthful and exhaustive account of their actions, the JEP said.

Six infrastructure projects, some specifically for Indigenous communities, are the reparations approved for those convicted.

Three other former officials from La Popa did not accept their responsibility in the crimes, the court said, and could face up to 20 years in prison if convicted.

A truth commission set up as part of the peace deal held repeated sessions about "false positives".

In one event, former President Juan Manuel Santos asked forgiveness for the killings, which took place partly during his time as defense minister under ex-President Alvaro Uribe.

Uribe, unlike all of Colombia's other living former leaders, never appeared at any commission event, instead holding a one-on-one meeting with the commission's head.

Uribe is currently appealing a 12-year conviction in a long-running case about his connections to paramilitaries.

Some former soldiers have already begun to participate in reparations, working alongside former rebels, which will be counted toward whatever sentences they may face.

Reparations projects allowed by the JEP can include building roads, planting trees, assisting with the removal of landmines and the search for disappeared people.

Those convicted have limits on their freedom of movement and are monitored by the court.

The JEP is investigating war crimes through eleven cases, including ones focused on sexual violence and child recruitment.

The half-century conflict killed at least 450,000 people.

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## Terrorism

**Senior CJNG Member Indicted on Wire Fraud, Money Laundering, and Terrorism Charges for Operating Massive Timeshare Fraud Scheme (Office of Police Affairs, U.S. Department of Justice) September 22, 2025**

**Earlier today, an indictment was unsealed charging Julio Cesar Montero Pinzon (Montero Pinzon), also known as El Tarjetas, Moreno, El Chess, Cesar Hernandez Jimenez, and CH Jimenez, a senior member of the Cartel de Jalisco Nueva Generacion (CJNG), and his half-sister Griselda Margarita Arredondo Pinzon (Arredondo Pinzon), for their roles in perpetrating an international fraud scheme targeting Americans who own timeshare properties in Mexico. Montero Pinzon and Arredondo Pinzon were each charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and conspiracy to commit money laundering. In addition, Montero Pinzon was charged with conspiracy to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization and providing and attempting to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization. Both Montero Pinzon and Arredondo Pinzon are Mexican nationals and are not in U.S. custody.**

“This senior leader of a foreign terrorist organization allegedly defrauded innocent citizens to fuel terrorism against the American people,” said Attorney General Pamela Bondi. “The CJNG and other cartels are on notice: no scheme, plot, or conspiracy will evade the reach of this Justice Department.”

“As alleged, Montero Pinzon and Arredondo Pinzon filled the coffers of a dangerous terrorist organization through a sophisticated fraud scheme that victimized thousands of American timeshare owners,” said U.S. Attorney Joseph Nocella for the Eastern District of New York. “Terrorist cartels such as CJNG fund their activities not only through drug trafficking but also through complex fraud schemes, and this office is committed to aggressively prosecuting such crimes.”

“For more than a decade, Julio Montero Pinzon, a senior CJNG cartel leader, and Griselda Arredondo Pinzon allegedly defrauded timeshare owners before laundering the illicit proceeds to fund their terrorist organization,” said Assistant Director in Charge Christopher G. Raia of the FBI New York Field Office. “This alleged scheme spanned the globe and exploited thousands of victims, reflecting the cartel’s evolution of developing various mechanisms for criminal financing. Today’s significant disruption emphasizes the FBI’s determined resolve to not only eliminate any monetary source fueling criminal enterprises but also defend our nation against foreign adversaries.”

“CJNG has repeatedly victimized our communities through widespread drug trafficking, ruthless violence, money laundering, fraud, and other criminal schemes. Their cartel operations extend well beyond Mexico, pumping poison into American streets, fueling addiction, tearing apart neighborhoods, and corrupting financial systems,” said Special Agent in Charge Frank A. Tarentino of DEA New York Division. “Thanks to the relentless work of DEA’s Trident Initiative — an initiative built with our federal law enforcement partners and created specifically to target and dismantle drug cartels and their leadership, the DEA and our partners were able to pursue senior members like Montero Pinzon and Arredondo Pinzon, cutting off CJNG and its network of its illicit profits through money laundering and fraud. The DEA remains relentless in dismantling these cartels and our pursuit for justice. This is our global fight — and our promise to save lives.”

“Cartel de Jalisco Nueva Generacion ran this timeshare fraud scheme like a business, with each member playing a role — finding the investors to victimize, manipulating the docs and online sites, moving and hiding the money, and securing funds to purchase and distribute deadly narcotics into the United States,” said Special Agent in Charge Harry T. Chavis of IRS-CI’s New York Field Office. “This massive, multi-million dollar fraud required timeshare owners to pay up front to sell or rent their timeshares, only to be left victim to the false promise of receiving money later. The CJNG cannot continue to operate with impunity — pocketing massive profits from narcotics trafficking and flat-out deception — which is why federal law enforcement will continue partnering in these investigations until this entire criminal organization is dismantled.”

According to the indictment, CJNG has been perpetrating an “advance fee” fraud scheme targeting owners of timeshare properties since approximately 2012. As part of the scheme, timeshare owners, many of whom were residents and citizens of the United States, were fraudulently induced to pay money up front either to sell or rent their timeshares under the pretext of fees and taxes, in exchange for false promises of receiving money later. Despite paying the advance fees, the victim timeshare owners did not receive the funds as promised and were unable to recoup their advance fee payments. The fraud scheme was multi-layered, involving follow-on schemes in which the fraudsters contacted victim timeshare owners and claimed to be lawyers or government officials who could help the victims recover their lost funds, so long as they paid additional advance fees.

The timeshare fraud scheme perpetrated by CJNG was operated out of various call centers in Mexico, where fraudsters contacted and solicited timeshare owners. Since approximately 2012, Montero Pinzon participated in the creation and management of a financial network for receiving and laundering funds obtained from victims of CJNG’s timeshare fraud scheme. Arredondo Pinzon worked at a CJNG-controlled central office that oversaw the operations of the call centers and oversaw the receipt and laundering of victim funds.

If convicted, the defendants face up to 20 years in prison on each count.

On Feb. 20, CJNG was designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) and a Specially Designated Global Terrorist, pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, and Executive Order 13224, as amended. Montero Pinzon continued to engage in CJNG’s timeshare fraud and in the laundering of victim funds derived from that fraud after CJNG was designated as an FTO and with

knowledge of CJNG's designation.

On Aug. 13, Montero Pinzon was sanctioned by the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) for his role in CJNG's timeshare fraud scheme. On July 16, 2024, OFAC sanctioned Arredondo Pinzon for her role in CJNG's timeshare fraud scheme. To date, OFAC has sanctioned over 70 individuals and entities based on their participation in CJNG's timeshare fraud. Between approximately 2019-2024, approximately 6,000 U.S. victims have reported losses of approximately \$350 million attributable to timeshare fraud schemes in Mexico.

Trial Attorneys Brant Cook and Maryann McGuire of the Civil Division's Consumer Protection Branch and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Benjamin Weintraub and Andrew Wang for the Eastern District of New York are prosecuting the case, with critical support from the Justice Department's Office of International Affairs.

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## **Gender-Based Violence**

**ICC opens landmark war crimes case against fugitive Ugandan rebel leader Joseph Kony (Scottish Legal News (SLN))** September 10, 2025

**The International Criminal Court (ICC) has opened war crimes proceedings against Ugandan rebel leader Joseph Kony in its first-ever confirmation of charges hearing held without the accused present.**

The move represents a historic step for the court and a potential test case for future prosecutions of suspects who remain beyond its reach.

Kony, who founded the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), has been the subject of an ICC arrest warrant for two decades but has so far evaded capture. He faces 39 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, including murder, abduction, sexual enslavement and the conscription of thousands of children as fighters.

Once claiming he wanted to build a government based on the Ten Commandments, Kony's group became notorious for mutilating victims and carrying out atrocities across northern Uganda. His profile rose in 2012 with the viral "Kony 2012" social media campaign, but years of manhunts have failed to secure his arrest.

In court, prosecutors read out charges detailing alleged atrocities committed between 2003 and 2004, including gender-based crimes such as rape, forced marriage and pregnancy.

"Unfortunately the tentacles of international justice, even though they are lengthy, have not been sufficient to ensure the efficient arrest of fugitives," said deputy prosecutor Mame Mandiaye Niang. "Many victims who had the strength to survive the horrors of civil war have not survived this lengthy wait, others have lost patience, but there are some who have waited for this moment."

Children, the court heard, were abducted from schools and fields, deprived of their rights and forced to kill.

For the first time, the ICC is invoking powers under the Rome Statute to continue proceedings without a suspect in custody. Kony will be represented in absentia by a court-appointed lawyer while judges consider whether to confirm the charges. A trial cannot begin unless he is captured and brought to The Hague.

Legal experts say the case could set a precedent for handling fugitives unlikely to be detained. Survivors of LRA violence are watching the hearing via live screenings in northern Uganda, where rights advocates say it provides long-overdue recognition.

"This is about recognition," one survivor said. "Even if Kony is not in custody, the world is hearing what happened to our communities."

The LRA was driven out of Uganda in 2005 and later operated across Sudan, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic, where its fighters became involved in poaching and illegal mining. Attempts at peace talks in 2008 collapsed when Kony demanded guarantees of immunity from prosecution.

The ICC's decision to move forward highlights its resolve to pursue accountability despite practical obstacles. With its top prosecutor currently on leave over sexual misconduct allegations and facing political pressure and sanctions, observers say the Kony case is an opportunity for the court to reassert its role on the global stage.

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## Commentary and Perspectives

**Fighting corruption strengthens Ukraine in the war against Russia (Atlantic Council)** By Matthew H. Murray  
September 11, 2025

**In recent months, Russian President Vladimir Putin has responded to US-led peace efforts by escalating attacks on Ukrainian civilians and seeking to undermine the legitimacy of the Ukrainian government. The Russian ruler refuses to even meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for talks, attempting instead to portray him as the illegitimate leader of an irredeemably corrupt government. Moscow's goal is to delay meaningful negotiations and weaken Western resolve to support Ukraine in the hope that this will cause the Zelenskyy government to fall and derail the entire Ukrainian war effort.**

Putin's uncompromising stance reflects his commitment to extinguishing the threat posed by a free and democratic Ukraine. The Russian leader was driven to invade primarily because he saw an independent Ukraine slowly but steadily building the institutions of a functioning democracy right on Russia's border. This represented an existential challenge to Putin's own regime, an autocracy fueled by systemic corruption and dependent on repression.

Faced with Russia's determination to destroy Ukraine as a state and as a nation, Ukrainians could be tempted to delay the fight against corruption at home in order to first defeat Russia. In reality, however, this is a false choice. Ukraine has been locked in a struggle against both Russian imperial aggression and domestic corruption for more than a decade. From the 2014 Revolution of Dignity to the full-scale Russian invasion of 2022, Ukrainians have been battling not only to defend their land, but to build a country that belongs to its citizens rather than oligarchs and autocrats. The fight against Russia and the fight against corruption are two fronts of the same war.

Recent events in Ukraine underscore just how wrong Putin is to question the nation's fundamental commitment to democracy. Over several days in July, thousands of Ukrainians took to the streets in cities across the country, braving the threat of Russian missiles and drones to demonstrate against their leaders. They were not protesting wartime hardships or economic woes, though both are deeply felt. These protests were driven by a more fundamental desire to safeguard the country's anti-corruption institutions against efforts to turn back the clock and undo the progress achieved since the Revolution of Dignity.

These recent protests were sparked by a government move to strip Ukraine's anti-corruption agencies of their independence. The Ukrainian authorities may have been attempting to use wartime exigencies to bring anti-corruption bodies under their control and prevent the possible prosecution of high-level officials. If so, this was a major miscalculation. Within hours of a parliamentary vote placing key anti-corruption institutions under the authority of the prosecutor general, Ukraine's first major protests since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion were underway.

International stakeholders including the European Union, the International Monetary Fund, and Ukraine's G7 partners also reacted swiftly. The EU publicly demanded the full reversal of the legislative changes, stressing that independent anti-corruption institutions are a prerequisite for Ukraine's EU accession. To exert concrete pressure, Brussels suspended €1.5 billion in macro-financial assistance that was already in the pipeline for Ukraine.

The IMF echoed these concerns, indicating that Ukraine's compliance with anti-corruption commitments was essential for ongoing financial support. Similarly, G7 officials issued a statement urging the Ukrainian authorities to protect the autonomy of anti-corruption bodies, warning that continued support from international partners depended on upholding the rule of law.

Bolstered by this international support, Ukraine's civil society won the day. Zelenskyy moved quickly to reverse course, proposing new legislation that reinstated the independence of Ukraine's anti-corruption agencies. The lesson was clear: There can be no trade-offs for Ukraine when it comes to combating corruption, just as there is no room for half measures in the fight against Russia.

Ukraine's July 2025 protests reaffirmed a commitment to grassroots democracy that has defined the country's post-Soviet experience. During the Revolution of Dignity, millions of Ukrainians rallied not merely to remove an unpopular president who was viewed as a surrogate of Russia, but to demand a system of government where institutions work for the public good rather than the benefit of the few. This has served as a vision for the country's future ever since. Even now, amid the largest European invasion since World War II, Ukrainians continue to demand accountability while working to create a truly democratic society rooted in the rule of law.

Ukraine's courage, ingenuity, and resolve in the war against Russia draw heavily from the sense of empowerment that sprang from landmark events like the Revolution of Dignity and subsequent democratic reforms such as the decentralization of power. This has helped give Ukrainians more confidence in their ability to shape their communities and their country, fostering solidarity and promoting engagement in public life.

Greater Ukrainian agency has translated into remarkable resilience on the battlefield and beyond. Local initiatives, volunteer networks, and territorial defense units have all thrived because the Ukrainian authorities ceded space for society to organize itself. When power flows from the ground up, a nation becomes so much more than the territory it defends. This has helped make Ukraine capable of fighting back against a far larger adversary.

Ukrainian society's lack of tolerance for corruption is perhaps nowhere more evident than in the defense sector, where the stakes could not be higher. As Ukraine fights for its very existence, citizens and soldiers alike have demonstrated zero patience for anyone accused of exploiting the war for private gain. Wartime corruption scandals related to military procurement have provoked widespread outrage across the country. The public response has often been swift and unrelenting with investigations launched, resignations demanded, and reforms accelerated.

Despite the success of this summer's protest movement, the battle to protect Ukraine's anti-corruption architecture is far from over. As Ukraine moves forward, its commitment to safeguarding the autonomy and integrity of anti-corruption organs will be tested by adversaries who are as persistent as they are resourceful. In parallel to the ongoing Russian invasion, Moscow will continue to push the message that Zelenskyy's government is illegitimate, while also promoting perceptions of Ukraine as hopelessly corrupt.

Putin's fear of Ukraine's emerging democracy is the root cause of the war. Unlike Russia's traditionally authoritarian and highly centralized system of government, Ukrainian democracy pulses with the will of the people. It is a highly dynamic and decentralized political culture that derives its strength from the grassroots level. Time and again, Ukrainians have reminded Zelenskyy and his predecessors that true power lies not at the highest levels of government in Kyiv, but with the Ukrainian people. The anti-corruption reforms of the past decade manifest this reality. They have set an example that resonates far beyond Ukraine's borders and helps generate strong international backing for the country.

As peace negotiations continue to unfold and Ukraine's partners seek a security formula to prevent further Russian aggression, the fight against corruption will fortify Ukrainian sovereignty. Each advance in transparency and the rule of law strengthens Ukraine's standing, both at home and abroad, while exposing the malign intent of Russia's disinformation. In the end, Ukraine's freedom will not be secured solely by military victories, but also by a new social contract under which every Ukrainian knows that no one is above

the law.

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## WORTH READING

### **Legal analysis of the conduct of Israel in Gaza pursuant to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Office of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights)** By Human Rights Council

September 16, 2025

#### Introduction

1. The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel (“the Commission”) was established on 27 May 2021 by the Human Rights Council to, inter alia, investigate in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel all alleged violations of international humanitarian law and all alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law leading up to and since 13 April 2021, and establish the facts and circumstances that may amount to such violations and abuses and of crimes perpetrated.
2. The Commission has been collecting and analysing evidence in relation to alleged violations committed by all parties to the conflict. The Commission has published three mandated reports 2 and three conference room papers 3 detailing violations of international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international crimes committed by all parties since 7 October 2023. 4 The Commission’s legal findings in this report are primarily based on the factual findings contained in the reports that it has published since 7 October 2023, and findings from its mandated report that will be presented to the General Assembly in October 2025. 5 The Commission has relied on its own investigations but it is clear that its findings are not the only relevant facts and events for an analysis of genocide. The incidents included in this report are non-exhaustive of incidents relevant to an analysis of genocide.
3. In its previous reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly, the Commission found that the Israeli security forces have committed crimes against humanity and war crimes in Gaza, including extermination, torture, rape, sexual violence and other inhumane acts, inhuman treatment, forcible transfer, persecution based on gender and starvation as a method of warfare. Furthermore, the Commission found that the Israeli authorities have (i) destroyed in part the reproductive capacity of the Palestinians in Gaza as a group, including by imposing measures intended to prevent births; and (ii) deliberately inflicted conditions of life calculated to bring about the physical destruction of Palestinians as a group, both of which are underlying acts of genocide in the Rome Statute and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (“Genocide Convention”).
4. Having concluded that the Israeli security forces committed crimes against humanity, war crimes and the actus reus of two underlying acts of genocide in Gaza, the Commission now addresses the issue of genocide. The Commission analyses the conduct of the Israeli security forces in Gaza starting in October 2023, excluding other geographical and temporal aspects, and state responsibility under international law under the Genocide Convention. The Commission refers to its relevant factual findings in relation to the Israeli military operations in Gaza and examines if such findings fulfil the requirements to establish the actus reus and mens rea of genocide and, if so, the legal consequences for Israel and other States under the Genocide Convention.

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