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The prevention and punishment of genocide, as an international crime, was laid down in a **UN Convention** ^[1] adopted in the aftermath of the Second World War. The crime of genocide generally involves the deliberate and systematic extermination of a group. Art. II of the UN Genocide Convention notes that the following acts, if committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, may constitute genocide:

- a. killing members of the group;
- b. causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- c. deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- d. imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- e. forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

In addition to the genocidal acts themselves being punishable as international crimes, other punishable conduct includes conspiracy to commit genocide, direct and public incitement to commit genocide, attempts to commit genocide and complicity in genocide (Art. III of UN Genocide Convention).

Genocide may occur in the absence of an armed conflict. If committed in time of war, acts of genocide also correspond to **war crimes** ^[2].

See **Breach** ^[3], **Violations** ^[4]; **War Crimes** ^[2]; **Crimes Against Humanity** ^[5]; **International Criminal Court**

[6]; **ICTY** [7]; **ICTR** [8]; **International criminal law** [9]; **Individual criminal responsibility** [10];

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Chapter 13, Genocide [11]

CASES

Germany, International Criminal Code (s.7) [12]

Sudan, Report of the UN Commission of Enquiry in Darfur (A. paras 640-642) [13]

Case Study, Armed Conflicts in the Great Lakes Region (1. A) [14]

ICTR, The Prosecutor v. Akayesu [15] (A. [15] Paras 492 [16]-523 [17])

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32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Sexual and gender-based violence: joint action on prevention and response [22]

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Links

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- [4] <https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/violations>
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- [13] https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/sudan-report-un-commission-enquiry-darfur#para_640
- [14] https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/case-study-armed-conflicts-great-lakes-region-1994-2005#part_a
- [15] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/ictr-prosecutor-v-jean-paul-akayesu>
- [16] https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/ictr-prosecutor-v-jean-paul-akayesu#parta_492
- [17] https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/ictr-prosecutor-v-jean-paul-akayesu#parta_523
- [18] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/ictr-media-case>
- [19] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/switzerland-niyonteze-case>
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- [22] <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/32nd-international-conference-red-cross-and-red-crescent-sexual-and-gender-based-violence>
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