

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR RWANDA

About

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) was created by Security Council Resolution 955 on November 8, 1994. Its mandate includes the prosecution of crimes against humanity, genocide, and war crimes occurring between January 1, 1994 and December 31, 1994 in Rwanda, and also related crimes by Rwandan citizens in neighboring countries during that period and crimes committed within Rwanda by non-Rwandan citizens. As a UN tribunal, the judges and attorneys are employees of the United Nations. The ICTR is located in Arusha, Tanzania.

Due to the large number of alleged perpetrators involved in the Rwandan genocide, only the highest-level offenders are subject to the jurisdiction of the ICTR. Many alleged perpetrators are being or were tried in domestic gacaca (village) courts in Rwanda or in national courts in Rwanda and in other countries.

Statistics

- 92 people indicted
- 17 cases pending appeal
- 46 convicted and sentenced
- 12 acquitted
- 9 indicted individuals remain at large



Notable Cases

Jean Kambanda was Rwanda's former Prime Minister of the Interim Government, following the death of president Juvenal Habyarimana. He is the highest-ranking former political leader in ICTR's custody. He was accused and found guilty of "genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide, direct and public incitement to commit genocide, complicity in genocide," crimes against humanity (murder), and crimes against humanity (extermination). He publicly encouraged killing, incited massacres, and congratulated

people committing the murders. Kambanda pled guilty, the first time ever that a head of state pled guilty to genocide. He was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Jean Paul Akayesu was accused of genocide, complicity in genocide, direct and public incitement to commit genocide, crimes against humanity (extermination), crimes against humanity (murder), crimes against humanity (torture), crimes against humanity (rape), and crimes against humanity (other inhumane acts). He facilitated and oversaw sexual violence, murder, and torture within the bureau communal in which he worked and made no attempts to stop the murder of over 2,000 Tutsis. Akayesu was arrested in Zambia and pled not guilty. He was sentenced to life imprisonment and is currently jailed in Mali. In the *Akayesu* judgment, the ICTR provided the first interpretation of genocide as defined in the Genocide Convention and affirmed that rape may be a tool of genocide and is thus an international crime.



Ferdinand Nahimana was the co-founder of radio station Radio Télévision Libre des Mille Collines (RTLM), where information was broadcast during the genocide to help coordinate the killings and incite hatred toward Tutsi victims. He was found guilty of genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide, direct and public incitement to commit genocide, crimes against humanity (persecution), and crimes against humanity (extermination). He was sentenced to life imprisonment in December 2003 and appealed his case. In November 2007 the ICTR Appeals Chamber only found him guilty of direct and public incitement to commit genocide and crimes against humanity (persecution). His sentence was reduced to 30 years' imprisonment and he is currently jailed in Mali.