



UNIVERSAL JURISDICTION UPDATES **(October 2024 – December 2025)**

October 2024

- 1. Eugène Rwamucyo Case (France):** Eugène Rwamucyo was found guilty of complicity in genocide, complicity in crimes against humanity and conspiring to prepare for those crimes by spreading propaganda and attempting to cover up evidence of mass murder in Rwanda. The former head of the Centre of Public Health of the University of Butare in Rwanda was residing in France when he was convicted. He was imprisoned for 27 years after a prolonged procedure, which was initiated in 2007. [French court jails ex-doctor in latest Rwandan genocide trial](#)
- 2. Walid Al Zaytun Case (Sweden):** Walid Al Zaytun was suspected of having committed serious war crimes as a member of ISIS between May and June 2015. He was accused of being involved in a public humiliation of a civilian at a roundabout in the Syrian town of Al-Sawana, as well as aiding and abetting the murder of two persons protected under international humanitarian law who were allegedly executed on a public square in the same town. He was acquitted in October because the evidence failed to prove the crimes beyond a reasonable doubt. He was awarded \$82,000 compensation. [Sweden Pays \\$82,000 to Acquitted ISIS Suspect](#)
- 3. Unnamed Soldier (Belgium):** An investigation has been opened against a Belgian Israeli citizen who reportedly serves in the IDF's Refaim sniper unit. The Belgian probe comes after an investigation by Palestinian journalist and Bellingcat contributor Younis Tirawi, who accused the Refaim sniper unit of "brutal execution of unarmed civilians." On 17 October 2024, the Association Belgo-Palestinienne (Belgian Palestinian Association) filed a criminal complaint for war crimes against the unnamed soldier. On 18 October, the Federal Prosecutor's Office confirmed that it had opened an investigation into the allegations. [Belgium opens war crime probe into Brussels man fighting for Israel in Gaza](#)

4. **Callixte Mbarushimana Case (France):** A Rwandan national, a former UN employee accused of involvement in the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, was charged with having provided the Rwandan armed forces and the Interahamwe (the youth organisation of the National Republican Movement for Democracy and Development) with material from the UNDP and a list of Tutsis to kill. He was also accused of having participated in some massacres. The case was dismissed, citing insufficient evidence. [Genocide: France drops Callixte Mbarushimana case](#)
5. **Yan Petrovsky Case (Finland):** Petrovsky was arrested at Helsinki Airport in 2023. On 31 October 2024, the Finnish Deputy Prosecutor General charged Petrovsky with five counts of war crimes committed during his office as deputy-head of the Russian paramilitary unit Task Force Rusich. According to the indictment, he was involved in the unlawful killing of 22 Ukrainian soldiers and the serious wounding of four. He is further suspected of illegal conduct amounting to war crimes with respect to acts concerning the conduct of hostilities and the treatment of wounded and killed soldiers. [Finland prosecutes Russian neo-Nazi Petrovsky for crimes](#)

November 2024

6. **A suspect referred to as E.K. (Belgium):** E.K. is suspected of having participated in the 1994 genocide of the Tutsi in Kibuye, Rwanda. On 21st November 2024, the Belgian pre-trial chamber issued an arrest order (ordonnance de prise de corps) and referred the case to the Court of Assizes (Cour d'assises). E.K. is indicted and awaiting trial. Information about the status of the trial is available on page 24 of [03 TRIAL UJAR 2025 FINAL DIGITAL.pdf](#).

December 2024

7. **Philippe Hategekimana (Philippe Manier) Case (France):** A former deputy military police commander in Rwanda, convicted for genocide, complicity in genocide, crimes against humanity, complicity in crimes against humanity, and participation in a group formed with the view to prepare the commission of these crimes in the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi ethnic group in Rwanda, had his life imprisonment upheld by the appeal court. [French court upholds life sentence for Rwandan former police officer over genocide](#)
8. **Ahmed Fouad Mostafa Eldidi Case (Canada):** A naturalised Canadian citizen (since May 2024), alleged former member of ISIS was indicted in July 2024 for war crimes of murder, torture, mutilation and outrages upon personal dignity; conspiracy to commit murder; terrorism offences and further indicted in December 2024. He is detained and awaiting trial. [Overview: Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security—Study on the Review of the Foiled Terrorist Plot in Toronto and of the Security Screening Process \(August 28, 2024\)](#)

9. Madjaliwa Safari Case (France): Safari was indicted in December 2024 for allegedly participating in the execution of Tutsi civilians between April and July 1994 in the former prefectures of Gitarama and Butare, Rwanda. He was indicted on charges of genocide and crimes against humanity. He is detained and awaiting trial. [French Court To Try Rwandan Trader On Genocide Charges](#)

10. The Case of Jamil Hassan and Abdul Salam Mahmoud (The USA): A federal indictment was unsealed in the Northern District of Illinois charging two former Syrian intelligence officials, Jamil Hassan (72) and Abdul Salam Mahmoud (65), with war crimes under former President Bashar al-Assad. They are accused of conspiring to inflict cruel and inhuman treatment on civilian detainees, including U.S. citizens, at Mezzeh Prison near Damascus during the Syrian civil war. Arrest warrants have been issued, but both defendants remain at large. [Office of Public Affairs | Criminal Charges Unsealed Against Two Former High-Ranking Syrian Government Intelligence Officials for War Crimes against Americans and Other Civilians | United States Department of Justice](#)

January 2025

11. The Case of Ian Lundin and Alex Schneider (Sweden): Following the indictment of Ian Lundin (Swedish national) and Alex Schneider (Swiss national), former Director and CEO of Lundin Petroleum, for aiding and abetting war crimes in Sudan during oil extraction, the criminal trial began in September 2023 and is now the largest and longest running in Swedish history. Ian Lundin was cross-examined in January 2025, and the case is expected to conclude in 2026. [Trial of two former executives of Lundin charged with complicity in war crimes in Sudan begins in Sweden - Business and Human Rights Centre](#)

February 2025

12. The Case of Min Aung Hlaing, two civilian leaders, including Aung San Suu Kyi, and 22 other military officials (Argentina): A court in Argentina issued international arrest warrants for Min Aung Hlaing, two civilian leaders, including Aung San Suu Kyi, and 22 other military officials for crimes perpetrated by the military against the Rohingya, an ethno-religious numeric minority community in the country, between 2016 and 2017, including extrajudicial executions or other killings, including by random shooting; enforced disappearance and arbitrary detention; rape, including gang rape, and other forms of sexual violence; physical assault including beatings; torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; looting and occupation of property; destruction of property; and ethnic and religious discrimination and persecution. [Argentine Court Issues Arrest Warrants In The Rohingya Genocide Case](#)

March 2025

13. Voislav Torden Case (Finland): Voislav Torden, 38, a senior member of the Russian far-right mercenary group Rusich, was sentenced to life in prison by a Finnish court for killing and torturing a Ukrainian in 2014. [Russian mercenary sentenced to life by Finnish court for war crimes in Ukraine](#)

April 2025

14. Gabriel Ben Haim Case (Columbia): The Hind Rajab Foundation filed a criminal complaint in Colombia against Gabriel Ben Haim, an Israeli-French sniper in the IDF, alleging war crimes and crimes against humanity during Israel's 2024–2025 Gaza campaign. Ben Haim, part of the Refaim sniper unit under the 35th Paratroopers Brigade, is accused of involvement in extrajudicial killings, attacks on civilians and medical facilities, and destruction of civilian property in Gaza's Tel al-Hawa, Khan Younis, and other populated areas. [Romanian Authorities Refer HRF War Crimes Complaint Against Israeli Soldier to Military Prosecutor | THE HIND RAJAB FOUNDATION | THE HIND RAJAB FOUNDATION](#)

May 2025

15. Majdi Nema, alias “Islam Alloush” Case (France): On 28 May 2025, a French court sentenced former Syrian rebel Majdi Nema, also known as “Islam Alloush,” to ten years’ imprisonment for complicity in war crimes, finding that he knowingly facilitated the recruitment of minors aged 15–18 and participated in a conspiracy with Jaysh al-Islam to commit war crimes. The court held that Nema contributed through his roles as spokesperson, intelligence officer, and strategic advisor. The crimes occurred in eastern Ghouta, Syria, between 2013 and 2016, a besieged region where rebel groups and the Assad regime both perpetrated abuses against civilians. [Nema, guilty of his organization's crimes](#)

June 2025

16. The Case against the Chinese Government (Argentina): On 18 June 2025, Argentina's highest criminal court, the Federal Court of Criminal Cassation, ruled that there are no legal obstacles to opening a universal jurisdiction case concerning alleged crimes against humanity and genocide against the Uyghur people committed by members of the Chinese regime. The court ordered the case to proceed and directed that a newly constituted panel of the Federal Court of Appeal implement the ruling, thereby reviving a criminal complaint initially filed on 16 August 2022 by the World Uyghur Congress, the Uyghur Human Rights Project, and Lawyers for Uyghur. Brought under Article 118 of the Argentine Constitution, the case seeks accountability for well-documented abuses, including mass detention, torture, forced sterilisation, sexual violence, disappearances, and persecution, and represents a significant step toward justice in light of China's

refusal to join the ICC and its veto power at the UN Security Council. [Argentina's highest criminal court rules in favour of the Uyghur universal jurisdiction case](#)

- 17. Alaa Mousa Case (Germany):** Alaa Mousa, a Syrian doctor accused of torturing opponents of former Syrian President Bashar al-Assad while serving as a physician at a military prison and hospitals in Homs and Damascus in 2011 and 2012, has been sentenced to life in prison by a German court. [Syrian doctor guilty of torture and war crimes sentenced to life in prison](#)

July 2025

- 18. The Case of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and senior military officials:** Spanish activist Sergio Toribio, the sole Spanish crew member of the humanitarian vessel Madleen from the Freedom Flotilla to Gaza, filed a criminal complaint in Spain's National Court against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and senior military officials. The filing includes a private lawsuit by Toribio, and a popular lawsuit brought by the Committee of Solidarity with the Arab Cause (CSCA), alleging war crimes and crimes against humanity for the attack on the civilian mission in international waters aiming to breach the Gaza blockade. [Netanyahu denounced before the National Court for war crimes in the assault on the Freedom Flotilla](#)

- 19. Bashar al-Assad Case (France):** France's highest court has cancelled an arrest warrant for the former Syrian leader, Bashar al-Assad, and upheld Assad's head-of-state immunity, but added that since he is no longer in office, new arrest warrants may have been or may be issued against him for acts that may constitute war crimes or crimes against humanity during the country's civil war. [France's top court annuls arrest warrant for Bashar al-Assad |](#)

August 2025

- 20. Mustafa A. Case (The Netherlands):** On 27 August 2025, the Hague Court of Appeal upheld and increased to 13 years the sentence of Mustafa A., a member of Liwa al-Quds, for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Syria, confirming his leading role in the group and involvement in torture. In a landmark decision, the Court also awarded compensation to the victim under Syrian law, the first such ruling in an international crimes case, overturning the District Court's earlier rejection. The case, initiated by SCM with support from The Nuhanovic Foundation, highlights the role of civil society in securing accountability for regime-related crimes. [Case Against Mustafa A. \(member of Liwa Al Quds\) | Official investigation name "Vescher" - The Nuhanovic Foundation](#)

21. Michael Correa Case (The USA): Michael Correa, a Gambian ex-death squad member, was found guilty for five counts of torture and one count of conspiracy to commit torture. This verdict marks the first time a U.S. jury has ever held a non-U.S. citizen criminally responsible for torture committed outside of the United States. On 22 August 2025, a federal judge sentenced Michael Sang Correa to 67.5 years in prison for torture committed in The Gambia in 2006. [Michael Sang Correa - TRIAL International - Universal jurisdiction database](#)

September 2025

22. The Case against Israeli Army in Gaza (Spain): On 18 September 2025, Spain's Attorney General Álvaro García Ortiz authorized the opening of preliminary proceedings to investigate alleged crimes by the Israeli Army in Gaza, following a request from Supreme Court Prosecutor for Democratic Memory Dolores Delgado. The decree allows the Public Prosecutor's Office to cooperate with ongoing investigations at the ICC and the International Court of Justice, supporting international accountability and cooperation. [Spain Engages in Investigation of Crimes in Gaza: The Need to Strengthen Universal Jurisdiction](#)

October 2025

23. Bashar al-Assad Case (France): French investigating judges from the Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Unit re-issued an international arrest warrant for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad over the 2013 chemical-weapons attacks in Eastern Ghouta. This is France's third arrest warrant against Assad, following a clarification by the Cour de cassation that head-of-state immunity does not apply to core international crimes. The warrant charges Assad with complicity in crimes against humanity and war crimes under France's universal jurisdiction laws and has been transmitted to Interpol for enforcement. [Weekly News Recap \(27 October - 2 November 2025\)](#)

24. Martina Johnson Case (Belgium): On Tuesday, 14 October 2024, after 11 years of investigation, Belgian judicial authorities referred Martina Johnson, a Liberian national, to the Ghent Assize Court under universal jurisdiction. Johnson is suspected of committing serious international crimes during the First Liberian Civil War (1989–1996), allegedly acting as a commander in the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), the rebel group linked to former President Charles Taylor. [Belgium finally decides to try Martina Johnson](#)

November 2025

25. The Case of Jihad A., Mahmoud A., Mazhar J., Sameer S., and Wael S. (Germany): On 19 November, the Higher Regional Court in Koblenz began a trial examining crimes committed under the Assad regime in Syria, focusing for the first time on the starvation and siege of Yarmouk, a former Palestinian refugee

camp in Damascus. The German Federal Prosecutor's Office has charged five men under universal jurisdiction, four alleged members of the "Free Palestine Movement" militia and one Syrian intelligence agent, with crimes against humanity and war crimes, including homicide, murder, torture, unlawful detention, and use of prohibited warfare methods. They are accused of violently suppressing a peaceful demonstration on 13 July 2012 and participating in the subsequent siege of Yarmouk, which cut civilians off from food, medicine, and humanitarian aid, a brutal strategy of war employed by the Assad regime against opposition-held areas. [Another Syrian trial in Koblenz – but different](#)

26. Ahmed al-Sharaa Case (Germany): The Kurdish Community of Germany (KGD) filed a criminal complaint against Ahmed al-Sharaa, interim president of Syria and former jihadist commander, alleging genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. The charges focus primarily on atrocities committed against Yazidi Kurds and other minority groups affected by Syria's prolonged conflict. [Germany's Universal Jurisdiction & Syrian War Crimes](#)

December 2025

27. Roger Lumbala Case (France): Congolese ex-rebel leader Roger Lumbala was found guilty by a Paris court of ordering or aiding and abetting torture and inhumane crimes, summary executions, rape constituting torture, sexual slavery, forced labour, theft and pillage and was sentenced to 30 years in prison. [Landmark Verdict of Former Congolese Minister Ends Decades of Impunity - TRIAL International](#)

28. The Case against 40 Iranian Officials (confidentiality preserved) (Argentina): A group of victims of Iran's 2022 Women, Life, Freedom protests filed the first criminal complaint in Argentina against 40 Iranian officials, alleging crimes against humanity including targeted blinding, murder, torture, arbitrary detention, and mass arrests. The complaint, supported by the Iran Human Rights Documentation Center, requests a criminal investigation under Argentina's universal jurisdiction framework, citing the Iranian security forces' violent response to the protests, including the use of live ammunition and other harmful projectiles against demonstrators. [Victims of Iran's 2022 crackdown file criminal complaint against 40 officials |](#)

29. Malik N. Case (France): Malik N., a Syrian national residing in France, has been indicted in Paris for crimes against humanity and complicity in crimes against humanity alleged to be committed in Syria. Allegedly Malik was a former member of Syrian intelligence attached to a detention centre where torture was practised. He was taken into police custody and placed in pre-trial detention by an investigating judge following the PNAT's requisitions. [Crimes against humanity: a former member of Syrian intelligence imprisoned in France](#)

Legislative/Policy Updates

December 2024

1. **Denmark:** On 17 December 2024, the Danish Parliament adopted a legislative reform adding a new chapter to the Danish Penal Code that allows for the prosecution in national courts of crimes of aggression, genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and torture, crimes covered by the Statute of the ICC. The Penal Code is still applicable to people who are in Danish territory. [Criminal Code denmark.pdf](#)

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