

"Nuremberg Principles": Measure All Criminals by the Same Yardstick. When is the Next "Nuremberg Trial" Due?

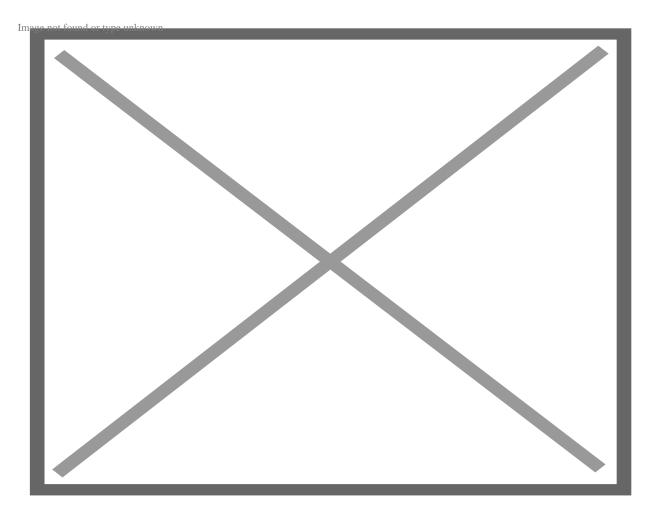
Description

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Robert H. Jackson, US chief prosecutor in the Nuremberg trial of the main German war criminals in World War II said in his opening speech on 21 November 1945:

"...we must never forget that by the same standard by which we measure the accused today, we too will be measured by history tomorrow. To hand these defendants a poisoned cup is to bring it to our own lips." (1)

On 24 October 1946, in an oral report to the People's Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations proposed that **the principles applied in the total of 13 Nuremberg trials be made a permanent part of international law.**



On 29 July 1950, the International Law Commission (ILC) formulated its seven-article version of the Nuremberg Principles. **They pointed the way for the new international criminal law:**

- 1. Any person who commits a crime under international law is criminally liable for it.
- 2. Even if national law does not impose a penalty for a crime under international law, the perpetrator is liable to prosecution under international law.
- 3. Heads of state and members of government are also responsible for the crimes they commit under international law.
- 4. Acting on superior orders does not exempt one from responsibility under international law, provided the perpetrator could have acted differently.
- 5. Everyone charged with a crime under international law is entitled to due process.
- 6. The following crimes are punishable as crimes under international law: a) crimes against peace b) war crimes c) crimes against humanity.
- 7. Complicity in the commission of the above crimes shall also constitute a crime under international *law.*" (2)

When is the next "Nuremberg Trial" due?

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Dr. Rudolf Hänsel is a graduate psychologist and educationalist.

Notes

- (1) http://www.von-nuernberg-nach-den-haag.de/seite1/die_nuernberger_prinzipien/
- (2) https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nürnberger_Prinzipien

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