





The Practice of International Criminal Law

CODY CORLISS
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW

International Criminal Law is a subset of public international law

- International criminal law places responsibility on individual persons.
- ▶ It proscribes and punishes acts that are defined as crimes by international law.

WAR CRIMINALS INDICTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE FORMER YUGOSLA



NATIONALITY: CROATIAN





DOB: 01/01/64



BROWNISH-GRAY HAIR:







ŽELJKO MEAKIĆ NATIONALITY: BOSNIAN SERR



SLOBODAN MILJKOVIĆ DOB: 01/01/53 NATIONALITY: SPERIAN



STOCKY; RED-FACED



NATIONALITY: SERBIAN









DOB: 15/05/52 DESCRIPTION: 170 CM; 100 KG;





VESELIN ŠLJIVANĆANIN





Sources of International Criminal Law

- ▶ Treaties
- Customary International Law (CIL)
- General principles of law
- Judicial decisions (subsidiary source)
- Learned writings (subsidiary source)

Core Crimes of International Criminal Law

- ▶ War Crimes
- ► Crimes against Humanity
- ▶ Genocide
- Aggression

WAR CRIMES

- VIOLATIONS OF THE LAWS OR CUSTOMS OF WAR
- GRAVE BREACHES OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS OF 1949

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

 ATROCITIES AND OFFENCES COMMITTED AGAINST ANY CIVILIAN POPULATION, AS PART OF A WIDESPREAD ATTACK.

GENOCIDE

 GENOCIDE MEANS ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ACTS COMMITTED WITH INTENT TO DESTROY, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, A NATIONAL, ETHNIC, RACIAL OR RELIGIOUS GROUP

AGGRESSION

THE USE OF ARMED FORCE BY A STATE AGAINST THE SOVEREIGNTY, INTEGRITY OR INDEPENDENCE OF ANOTHER STATE.

Establishment of ICTY

Established by United Nations Security Council Res. 827 (25 May 1993)

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

- 1. Approves the report of the Secretary-General;
- 2. <u>Decides</u> hereby to establish an international tribunal for the sole purpose of prosecuting persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia between 1 January 1991 and a date to be determined by the Security Council upon the restoration of peace and to this end to adopt the Statute of the International Tribunal annexed to the above-mentioned report;

The Break-Up of Yugoslavia



Jurisdiction

- Jurisdiction from 1991 onwards
- Jurisdiction over territory of ex-Yugoslavia
- Jurisdiction over natural persons



Accused



PERSONS INDICTED BY THE ICTY FOR WAR CRIMES

Warrants of Arrest are issued on behalf of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia





HADŽIĆ, Goran (Son of Branko) Born: 07.09.58 Vintovsk, Crostia Warnat date: 04.0604 No knova alize



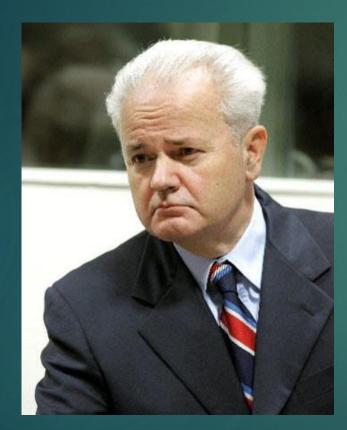


MLADIĆ, Rafke (Sen of Nedjo) Born: 12.03.42 Bo knoviči, Bornia & Herzegovina Warnet date: 25.0795 No knoven alian -The ICTY prosecutes persons considered the most responsible for the crimes in the former Yugoslavia

- A total of 161 indictees

Updated as of: 30 JULY 2008
RESERVED HOTE THAT A PRESERVED HAVE CHARGED UNIT EXTY OTHY Mapping Labrary, A Philatenhold Population Coll.

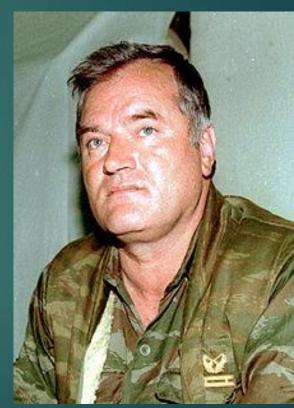
The Main Accused



Slobodan Milošević



Radovan Karadžić



Ratko Mladić

Prosecutor v. Ratko Mladić

Indicted: July 25, 1995

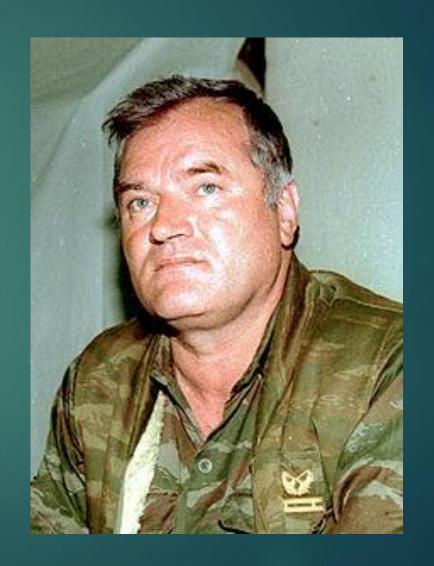
Arrested: May 26, 2011

Trial Conviction: Nov. 22, 2017

Conviction Affirmed on Appeal: June 8, 2021

Convicted of

- Genocide
- Crimes Against Humanity
- Violations of Laws or Customs of War



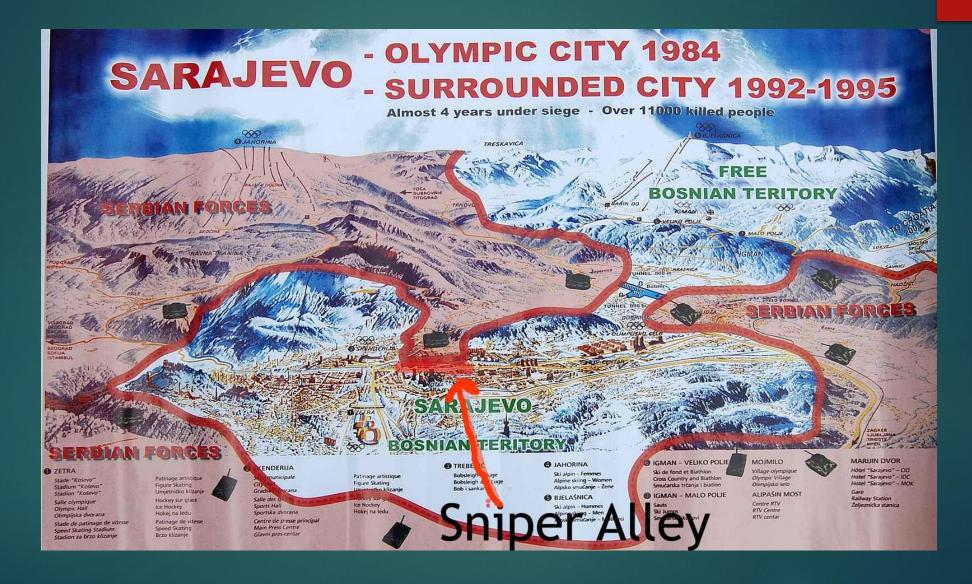
WAR CRIMES

43 month siege of Sarajevo

(May 1992 – November 1995)

The shelling and sniping of civilians

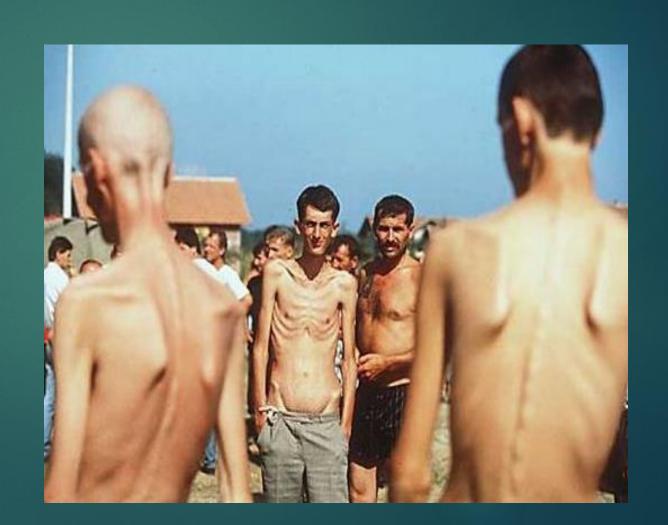




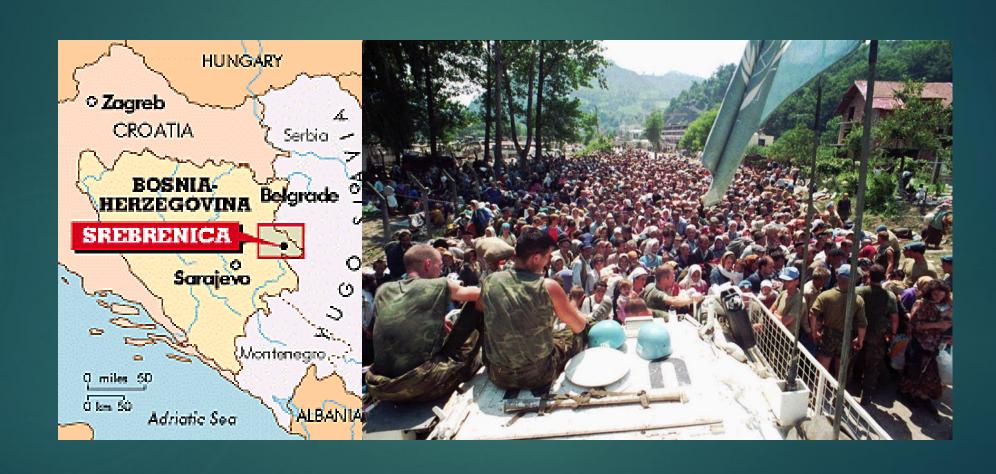
CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

Crimes against Humanity, including:

- > Persecution
- > Murder
- Extermination
- > Deportation
- > Forcible Transfer



GENOCIDE



Srebrenica July 11-22, 1995

The systematic execution of 7,000 Muslim men and boys



Excavating Mass Graves



International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR)

- Established in November 1994 in response to the Rwandan Genocide
- Established under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations
- ► Has jurisdiction over "persons responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of Rwanda and Rwandan citizens responsible for such violations committed in the territory of neighbouring States between 1 January 1994 and 31 December 1994"
- Primacy over national courts

Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL)

- Created in 2002 in response to brutal civil war in Sierra Leone
- Established by agreement between UN and Sierra Leone
- ► For those who "bear the greatest responsibility for serious violations of international humanitarian law and Sierra Leonean law committed in the territory of Sierra Leone since 30 November 1996"
- Crimes against Humanity, serious violations of Common Article 3 and Additional Protocol II, 'other serious violations' of IHL and some Sierra Leonean crimes
- Only Tribunal to have a system to deal with offenders aged 15-18

Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL)

- ▶ The assassination of Rafik Hariri, 14 February 2005
- Established by agreement between UN and Lebanon
- ▶ Brought into force 10 June 2007
- Applies (primarily) domestic Lebanese law, supplemented where required by international law

Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC)

- ► Khmer Rouge, 1975-1979
- Established by agreement between UN and Cambodia, ratified by Cambodian parliament in 2004
- ► Has the power to try "senior leaders of Democratic Kampuchea and those most responsible for the crimes... committed during the period from 17 April 1975 to 6 January 1979" (Law on establishment of the ECCC, Art 1)
- Subject-matter jurisdiction over "crimes and serious violations of Cambodian penal law, international humanitarian law and custom, and international conventions recognised by Cambodia" (Art 1)

The International Criminal Court

- ► Established at the 1998 Rome Conference
- ▶ 1 July 2002, entry into force after 60 ratifications
- Operates on a system of complementarity

ICC – Subject matter jurisdiction

- ► The core crimes (Art 5): Genocide (Art 6), Crimes Against Humanity (Art 7), War Crimes (Art 8) and Aggression (Art 8bis)
- Crimes against the administration of justice, e.g. perjury
- Terrorism, drug-smuggling offences not as of yet

ICC – Bases of Jurisdiction

- Territoriality crimes committed on the territory of a State party
- Active nationality crimes committed by a national of a State party
- Art 12(3) acceptance by a State of jurisdiction
 - Avoidance of the possibility of victor's justice
- ▶ The UNSC referral system
 - ▶ ICC has jurisdiction regardless of whether the State is a party

ICC – initiation of proceedings (Art 13)

- By a State Party
 - Uganda (Jan 2004), Central African Republic (twice December 2004, May 2014), Democratic Republic of Congo (April 2004), Mali (July 2012)
- UNSC Referral
 - Darfur (Resolution 1593 (March 2005)) and Libya (Resolution 1970 (February 2011))
- Ex proprio motu
 - Kenya (March 2010); Côté d'Ivoire (October 2011); Georgia (January 2016)

ICC - Opposition

- Currently 123 States party to the ICC Statute
- In its history, has faced opposition from superpowers, notably the United States
- Criticism for an alleged focus on crimes in Africa.



ICC – Arrest Warrant for Vladimir Putin

- lssued on March 17, 2023
- Indicted for war crimes committed in Ukraine
 - Art. 8(2)(a)(vii), 8(2)(b)(viii)
 - Related to the unlawful deportation and transfer of children from occupied areas of Ukraine to Russia.