

## Crimes against Humanity

One of the three categories of crime used by the International Military Tribunal (IMT, the court that conducted the Nuremberg Trials) as a basis for convicting war criminals. Besides crimes against humanity, the IMT was authorized to convict Nazis and Nazi collaborators of war crimes and crimes against peace.

According to the IMT's legal code, the definition of crimes against humanity is "murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, and other inhumane acts committed against any civilian population, before or during the war; or persecution on political, racial, or religious grounds in execution of or in connection with any crime within the jurisdiction of the tribunal, whether or not in violation of the domestic law of the country where perpetrated." This last clause means that the court could only convict a person of crimes against humanity if those crimes were committed in conjunction with war crimes or crimes against peace. In addition, crimes against humanity, as opposed to war crimes, were also defined as criminal acts committed against a population at any time—during times of war, and during times of peace. Most, but not all, of the victims of the Nazi crimes against humanity were Jews.