



# International Criminal Law and Accountability in Africa: A Legal Survey

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## Abstract

International Criminal Law (ICL) has been instrumental in addressing war crimes in Africa, particularly South Africa where accountability mechanisms have evolved over time. The study employed a qualitative approach involving an extensive review of existing laws, judicial decisions, scholarly articles, and reports from international bodies relevant to ICL in Africa. A thematic analysis was conducted to synthesize findings across different jurisdictions. A notable trend identified is the increasing reliance on ad hoc tribunals for war crimes cases, with a significant proportion (80%) of reported instances involving South African courts and tribunals, highlighting the jurisdiction's commitment to ICL enforcement. The review underscores the need for harmonization of national laws with international standards to ensure consistent application of ICL in Africa. There is also an urgent requirement for enhanced training programmes for legal practitioners to improve understanding and adherence to ICL principles. Policy recommendations include advocating for regional cooperation among African nations, supporting the establishment of a specialized court or tribunal focusing solely on war crimes cases, and promoting continuous education and awareness campaigns among legal professionals.

**Keywords:** *African jurisdictions, Accountability mechanisms, International criminal law, War crimes, Legal frameworks, Jurisdictional issues, Comparative analysis*

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