



War Crimes Accountability in Africa: An Ethnographic Study on International Criminal Law's Application in South Africa

War Crimes
Accountability in Africa: An

DOI
[10.5281/zenodo.18897
680](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18897680)

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Received 18 August 2009

Accepted 06 October 2009

Abstract

International Criminal Law (ICL) has been applied in South Africa to hold individuals accountable for war crimes committed during conflicts. Ethnographic research methods were employed, including participant observation, semi-structured interviews, and document analysis. The study covers various stakeholders such as victims, perpetrators, and legal practitioners. Local perceptions towards ICL varied significantly, with some communities viewing it as a tool for justice and reconciliation, while others felt alienated due to perceived lack of relevance or effectiveness in addressing local grievances. The findings highlight the complex interplay between international norms and domestic realities in the application of ICL in South Africa. Further ethnographic research should focus on understanding the social dynamics that influence perceptions and acceptance of ICL among different communities.

Keywords: *African conflict, ethnographic method, international criminal law, legal anthropology, war crimes, accountability studies, post-conflict reconstruction*

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