

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

When is the Next "Nuremberg Trial" Due?

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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)*

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Notes

(1) http://www.von-nuernberg-nach-den-haag.de/seite1/die_nuernberger_prinzipien/

(2) https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nürnberg_Prinzipien

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