

Activity 1.2 Scenario-Based Identification of the Four Crimes

Scenario 1: Guinea

- During December 2008 the military in Guinea staged a coup, forming a junta government.
- The leader of the junta, Captain Moussa Dadis Camara, pledged to abstain from running for president during the country's January 2010 elections.
- During 2009 Camara broke his pledge, declaring his candidacy for the presidential race.
- This prompted opposition protests, which were banned in Guinea.
- On 28 September 2009 the opposition held a pro-democracy rally at a stadium in Conakry. During the rally hundreds of members of the government security forces entered the stadium and opened fire on the crowd. Other members of the security forces blocked the gates to prevent civilians from fleeing.
- At least 150 people were killed and over 1,200 were seriously injured. There were reports of security forces perpetrating rape and other forms of sexual violence targeting women and girls in the crowd. Groups of men were also arbitrarily detained by security forces.

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Scenario 2: Catalonia (Spain)

- During 2017 the autonomous Spanish region of Catalonia scheduled a referendum to vote on whether there was popular support for gaining independence from Spain.
- The Spanish government declared the vote illegal on 7 September and the Constitutional Court suspended the referendum.
- Despite this, a referendum was held on 1 October.
- Prior to the referendum, the government tried to block the vote by disabling internet, confiscating ballots and threatening to detain Catalanian officials.
- On the day of the vote, the government sent the National Police and Guardia Civil to block the vote and prevent people from entering polling stations.
- Violence broke out between civilians and the security forces, with reports of police using rubber bullets, hitting people with batons and physically dragging them from polling stations. Catalanian officials were threatened with arrest.
- At least 900 civilians and 30 security agents were injured.

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Scenario 3: Yemen

- During 2014 the Houthis, an armed movement originating in northeast Yemen, and military units loyal to deposed President Ali Abdullah Saleh, took control of numerous governorates across the country.
- In March 2015 a Saudi Arabia-led military coalition responded to a government request for regional military intervention. Fighting between the government, supported by the international military coalition, and the Houthis remains ongoing.
- On 1 November 2017 an airstrike by the Saudi-led coalition targeted a hotel and adjoining market in Houthi-controlled Sa'ada province, resulting in the death of at least 31 civilians.
- The market and hotel are reportedly not within the vicinity of any Houthi military sites, and there is no clear evidence that Houthi fighters were killed in the strike.
- The Saudi-led coalition has routinely targeted non-military sites in their airstrikes.

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Scenario 4: Myanmar

- The Rohingya, a Muslim minority group, have faced institutionalized discrimination in Myanmar for decades.
- Myanmar's security forces have carried out "clearance operations" in Rakhine State since 25 August 2017 after an armed group calling itself the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) attacked police posts and an army base.
- Since that date there have been widespread reports of the security forces imposing collective punishment upon the ethnic Rohingya community, including the unlawful killing of civilians, mass displacement, rape, and the burning of at least 400 villages.
- At least 720,000 refugees – mostly Rohingya – have fled across the border to escape violence, bringing the total number of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh to more than 900,000.
- Myanmar's authorities have begun seizing Rohingya land across Rakhine State. Local government officials have indicated that confiscated land will now be reclassified for other purposes, and that Rohingya refugees will not necessarily be allowed to return to their previous villages.

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Scenario 5: Iraq

- Between October 2016 and July 2017 the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) conducted a military offensive to recapture the city of Mosul from the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).
- A United States-led military coalition lent significant air support to the Iraqi government during the offensive.
- Throughout the offensive, the UN received credible reports of ISIL forcibly displacing civilians and using civilians as human shields.
- On 17 March an airstrike on a building in the al-Jadidah district of Mosul, in which ISIL snipers were situated, led to the deaths of up to 200 civilians. The airstrike and civilian deaths were subsequently confirmed by a US military investigation.
- Investigations indicate that the airstrike had triggered explosives placed in the building by ISIL fighters, causing it to collapse. According the US investigation and the ISF, it was unknown that the building had been rigged with explosives.

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Scenario 6: Central African Republic

- The Central African Republic has experienced armed conflict since the Séléka rebel alliance, consisting of predominantly Muslim forces, overthrew the government in March 2013.
- In response, local militias, known as 'anti-Balaka' (anti-machete), consisting of predominantly Christian forces, were formed and they started to commit reprisals against Muslim communities.
- On 5 December 2013 anti-Balaka groups launched a coordinated attack on ex-Séléka forces in the capital, Bangui. Ex-Séléka forces responded with violence, eventually forcing the anti-Balaka to retreat after prolonged exchanges of gunfire. It was estimated that, in Bangui alone, the ex-Séléka and anti-Balaka killed some 1,000 people, mainly civilians, and 214,000 became internally displaced from 5 to 6 December 2013. Religious buildings such as mosques and churches were intentionally destroyed by both sides during the fighting.
- During the days that followed, anti-Balaka groups engaged in systematic door-to-door house searches in various neighbourhoods of Bangui, killing approximately 60 Muslim men. Many women and girls were raped and sexually abused while their husbands and fathers were killed.
- Among the ex-Séléka forces and anti-Balaka fighters were hundreds of armed children, many of them younger than 15.
- The attack triggered widespread violence between Christian and Muslim communities in Bangui and across the country.