

Issue Paper

Examination of the 1945-1946 Nuremberg Trials in Support of Future Tehran Trials

January 22, 2026

Purpose: This issue paper has been developed in support of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) as it commences the monumental task of developing investigation folders on Iranian officials. The individuals and activities being investigated primarily concern crimes against humanity, terrorism against other countries, and government corruption.

Because the Rule of Law has not been respected in Iran since 1953, its existing judicial branch is completely broken. Concurrent with investigating crimes of Iranian officials, NCRI will need to work with the Iranian people to develop a viable judicial system within the framework of a national constitution. Even the most professionally developed criminal cases will have no impact if a legitimate judicial system does not exist to bring criminal perpetrators to judgement and justice. This dual mission and mutually supported situation are best summed up in the military maxim: *The best way to take a bridge is by both ends at that same time.*

Applying pertinent history, this issue paper heavily relies upon lessons learned in the development and implementation of the first Nuremberg Trial (1945 - 1946) that brought senior Nazi criminals to justice.

Source Material:

Persico, Joseph E. *Nuremberg, Infamy on Trial*. New York: Penguin Books, 1994

Taylor, Telford. *The Anatomy of the Nuremberg Trials*, New York Skyhorse Publishing, 1993

Judgement at Nuremberg, MGM, released 1961. Screenplay by Abby Mann, Directed by Stanley Kramer

Scope: This report is primarily focused on issues that led up to, and were exposed during, the first Nuremberg Trial. Two exceptions concern the Baghdad Trial where Saddam Hussein and his seven co-defendants were held accountable in 2006 by Iraqi government.

Background: The fall of Shah Palavi in 1979 freed the Iranian people from an oppressive monarchy. The adage that *revolutions do not always produce democracies*

quickly proved to be true. Iran's attempt at a democracy was quickly hijacked by religious extremists. The result has been a theocracy that has committed extensive crimes against humanity within Iran, and has turned Iran into the number one nation-state exporter of international terrorism. Not since the reigns of terror in Stalin's Soviet Union and Hitler's Germany have so many national and international atrocities been committed.

During the first Nuremberg Trial, defendant Paul Otto Schmidt stated: *The general objectives of the Nazi leadership were apparent from the start, namely, the domination of the European Continent, to be achieved, first, by the incorporation of all German-speaking people in the Reich, and secondly, by territorial expansion...* (Taylor – page 353). Changing the words “Nazi leadership” to “fundamentalist leadership”, “European Continent” to “Middle East”, and “Reich” to “Regime” well describe what the religious dictatorship in Iran has been trying to do since 1979.

Likewise, replace the word “Germany” with “Iran”, US Supreme Court Justice and lead American prosecutor at the first Nuremberg Trial Robert Jackson's statement applies: *Germany became one vast torture chamber. The cries of its victims were heard around the world and brought shudders to civilized people.* (Perisco - page 115).

Situation: All totalitarian governments are destined to collapse as well proven throughout history and during the last century. Collapse of the Iranian regime has never been a question of *if*, but rather a determination of *when*. It now appears to be sooner, rather than later. When the collapse does happen, the ability to quickly and effectively bring Iran's criminals to justice and to reintroduce the Rule of Law to Iran will be dependent upon many factors. These factors are as follows:

Issue/Discussion/Assessment:

Issue 1: Iranian judicial system:

a. Discussion:

- (1) Although the Nazis came to power in 1932, Germany's judicial system was not completely destroyed until 1935. Ten years later the allies destroyed the Nazi government and reintroduced the Rule of Law in the British, French, and American occupied regions of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG). Like the first FRG Chancellor Conrad Adenauer, who had survived persecution and imprisonment during the Nazi reign, judges and lawyers who survived Hitler's Germany were available to rebuild a legitimate judicial system.
- (2) Combining the years of Shah Palavi's government and the Islamic Regime, the Iranian people have endured tyranny for 73 years – and counting.

Attorneys who practiced law in Iran prior to 1953 are not available to provide guidance in the reconstruction of a legitimate legal system.

b. Assessment:

- (1) The future Iran is going to have a difficult time building a legitimate legal system out of the ashes that now exist. The first thing that needs to be developed is a national constitution that identifies and empowers the judicial branch. The best start in this effort is engaging with the finest constitutional lawyers in the world to identify the future government of Iran. This too is a project that must not wait until the fall of the current Iranian government.

Issue 2: Lesson in lack of accountability:

- a. Discussion: Trials concerning German criminals from the First World War resulted in the fiasco of the Leipzig Trials. Agreeing to try its own criminals, Germany started out with 4,900 potential defendants. That number quickly dropped to 901. Of the twelve indicted, charges were dropped on three and three more simply failed to appear. The remaining six were found guilty and given extremely light sentences. To this situation, Robert Jackson stated, *Either the victors must judge the vanquished, or we must leave the defeated to judge themselves. After the First World War, we saw the futility of the latter course.* (Persico - page 136).
- b. Assessment: In keeping with the previously identified issue, there can be no doubt that if the existing Iranian judicial system is allowed to try the cases of regime criminals, the result will be as much of a farce as the Leipzig trials. A reformed judicial system must be constructed before the commencement of trials inside Iran.

Issue 3: Prior Preparation.

- a. Discussion: Criminal investigations of current Iranian regime officials cannot wait until after the government has collapsed because by the time the cases are developed, public interest will have waned. The time to investigate those cases is already past due.
- b. Assessment:
 - (1) *...the cleverest lawyers cannot grow evidence in the courtroom; they must have something in hand.* (Taylor – page 446)

- (2) There will need to be adjustments to the investigations once the government of Iran has collapsed and access to government records becomes available. That is understandable, and the additional evidence will be most welcome to cases that have already been constructed. It will be easier to fit the new evidence into cases already constructed rather than to be overwhelmed by a deluge of information. Furthermore, development of the cases now will expose evidence deficiencies that can be worked sooner rather than later.

Issue 4: National and international attention span

- a. Discussion: As mentioned in Issue 3, one of the biggest lessons learned by the prosecutors and judges of the Nuremberg Trial was about the attention span of public interest. The most blatant evidence of diminishing public interest was reporters being pulled by their outlets to cover other stories because within a year of the completion of World War II most of the world population, including Germany, lost interest.
- b. Assessment: Development of the cases now will expose evidence deficiencies that can be worked sooner rather than later. This is all the more reason the cases need to be as ready as possible when the fundamentalist government of Iran collapses.

Issue 5: Volume of cases

- a. Discussion:
 - (1) Following the conclusion of World War II, a series of trials were conducted of the perpetrators of crimes within Axis powers. These included the first Nuremberg Trial of twenty-one principles associated with the Nazi government, with Robert Jackson serving as the lead American prosecutor and Telford Taylor in support. For the twelve subsequent Nuremberg trials, Telford Taylor took the lead prosecutor role. Meanwhile, regional criminal trials were conducted throughout Europe by occupying allied forces, countries formerly occupied by Nazi Germany, and by the Federal Republic of Germany.
 - (2) There will be no occupying powers inside Iran to try regime criminals. Except for trials that the International Criminal Court (ICC) may be willing to administer, and possibility regime criminals extradited for terrorist attacks committed in other countries, the bulk of the trials will need to be held inside Iran.

b. Assessment:

- (1) Despite the massive amount of atrocities committed since 1979, investigations need to be thoroughly conducted on as many events and perpetrators as possible. As investigations proceed, more crimes and specific individuals involved will be discovered. These cases need to be developed not just for the judicial process, but also to thoroughly document and archive records of atrocities.
- (2) As with the Holocaust, there will always be those who will deny Iranian atrocities occurred. Well-documented records will serve as historical evidence. As Nuremberg Trial defendant Hans Frank stated: *A thousand years will pass and still Germany's guilt will not have been erased.* (Persico – page 323). That “thousand years” statement well applies to the atrocities committed by fundamentalist regime of Iran.
- (3) As for the prosecution phase, it is the responsibility of the judicial system, not the investigators, to determine what cases will be pursued.

Issue 6: International versus national tribunal

a. Discussion:

- (1) Based at The Hague, the International Criminal Court was founded in 2002. As stated in its own website *The International Criminal Court (ICC) investigates and, where warranted, tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression. The Court is participating in a global fight to end impunity, and through international criminal justice, the Court aims to hold those responsible accountable for their crimes and to help prevent these crimes from happening again. The Court cannot reach these goals alone. As a court of last resort, it seeks to complement, not replace, national Courts. Governed by an international treaty called the Rome Statute, the ICC is the world's first permanent international criminal court.*
- (2) At best, the ICC may be willing to handle a limited number of cases.

- b. Assessment: The vast majority of the cases will have to be handled within Iran and through extradition processes with nations that were subjected to Iran's exportation of terrorism.

Issue 7: Analysis of existing Iranian laws:

a. Discussion:

- (1) In a country that has experienced government tyranny since 1953, it is unlikely that applicable national laws exist for the crimes that have been committed against the Iranian people for 73 years.
- (2) International terrorism laws within the countries that have been subjected to Iranian-generated terrorism do exist.

b. Assessment:

- (1) In his book, Taylor probably said it best: *The Prologue to the Hague Convention specified that “unconcluded” cases should be decided by “the usages established among civilized people, from the laws of humanity, and the dictates of the public conscience.* (Taylor – page 485)
- (2) In conjunction with developing investigative files on Iranian officials who have committed humanitarian abuses on the country’s citizenship, an assessment of existing Iranian laws needs to be conducted as soon as possible.
- (3) Many dilemmas will be solved if the future Iranian government supports extraditions to other countries that have suffered from Tehran-generated terrorist attacks.

Issue 8: Categories of crimes to be investigated:

- a. Discussion: The Nuremberg Trial identified four generalized categories of crimes: (1) Conspiracy to carry out aggressive war; (2) the actual launching of aggression; (3) killing, destroying, and plundering during a war not justified by “military necessity”; and (4) crimes against humanity. Specific crimes within these categories resulted in prosecution. Conspiracy to carry out aggressive war was an unnecessary distraction. For the crimes committed by the Iranian regime, the actual launching of aggression and crimes against humanity covers exportation of international terrorism. Killing, destroying, plundering, and crimes against humanity covers both international and national crimes that the Iranian government has committed.
- b. Assessment: Categories and list of crimes need to be created to help focus the investigative and development of case file. A partial list of crimes are unjustified arrests, imprisonment of dissenters, torture, political executions, misuse of government wealth, imprisonment of foreigners, and exportation of terrorism. Specifics types of crimes being committed by the Iranian government will

expand. Investigative teams developing case files will need to create additional categories and types of crimes as their work progresses.

Issue 9: Investigations, and in turn trials, must be seen as not an exercise in vengeance.

a. Discussion:

(1) The reversal of lack of accountability is revenge. The Nuremberg Trials were justice delivered to the defeated by the victor, but the Rule of Law was applied.

(2) More recent and relevant to this issue are the Baghdad Trials and execution of sentences against Saddam and his seven co-defendants. With great difficulty, American oversight did keep the Baghdad Trials within the Rule of Law despite Shia versus Sunni conflicts.

(3) However, Moqtada al-Sadr's pledge that "Saddam will not live to see the light of a new year" resulted in Iraqi Prime Minister al-Maliki demanding US military turning Saddam over to his executioners on December 30, 2006 - two weeks before a professionally prepared scheduled execution. The December 30th execution was totally conducted by Moqtada's Mahdi Army. Later, extending the length of the hangman's rope on Saddam's brother (Barzan), while also knowing the condemned had advanced bone cancer, ensured the head severed from the body.

b. Assessment: Justice by the future Iranian government must ensure a fair trial and professional delivery of justice. As pointed out by Robert Jackson, the trials must be a result not of superior might, but superior morality.

Issue 10. Selection of individuals to be prosecuted.

a. Discussion: For the first Nuremberg Trial defendants representing a cross section of Nazi society were selected for prosecution: an Army general, a Luftwaffe general, two navy admirals, leader of the Hitler youth, an industrialist, a member of the propaganda machine (in place of Goebbels who had already committed suicide), and others.

b. Assessment:

(1) Again, Taylor stated it best: *All in all, the task of selecting defendants was hastily and negligently discharged, mainly because no guiding principles of selection had been agreed on.* (Taylor - page 90)

- (2) For the Tehran Trials, the defendants should be identified and tried based upon the seriousness of their crimes.

Issue 11. Identification of involvement in international terrorism:

- a. Discussion: Ever since the earliest days of the Iranian regime, acts of international terrorism have been committed against nations of all continents, except Antarctica.
- b. Assessment: Investigations of these criminals must include those who directed the terrorist acts, those who were involved in preparation and coordination, and those who committed the acts. These are also the same criminals who will be the most suited for extradition to the countries in which the terrorist acts were committed.

Issue 11. Criminality of organizations:

- a. Discussion:
 - (1) In preparation for the first Nuremberg Trial, the IMT determined that the Gestapo, SS, and other organizations were criminal organizations. This immediately produced a dilemma – were all members of these organizations to be considered criminals? Then came the problem of investigating all members of these criminal organizations simply based on membership. For the courtroom, nothing positive came out of these organization designations.
 - (2) The Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) and the Quds Force have already been declared foreign terrorist organizations by foreign governments. Likewise, actions by the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS) warrants that organization's FTO designation.
- b. Assessment:
 - (1) Membership in IRGC, Quds Force, or other designated organization should not warrant automatic criminal status. Just as in Germany, members of these organizations must be examined individually to determine who has done what. If vetting reviews determine that specific individuals have committed crimes, then they should be further investigated for determination of proceeding with criminal charges.
 - (2) A most serious problem of identifying all members of designated criminal organizations as criminals themselves is that this act will be

counterproductive. If all members of these organizations are subject to arrest and criminal prosecution, then they will have no reason to lay down their weapons and try to support the democratic future of Iran.

- (3) There will already be more than enough disgruntled former regime elements (FREs). Actions that will create more adversaries will be counterproductive. This too is a lesson that can be learned from the 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Issue 13. Obedience to illegal orders

a. Discussion:

- (1) Throughout the Nuremberg Trials, defendants tried to claim they were just following orders – despite the old Prussian maxim: *opt for disobedience if obedience brings no honor*.
- (2) This defense will rise again in the Tehran Trials as it continually does throughout history. It even occurred in the courtroom during the Baghdad Trials, when Saddam's seven co-defendants commenced yelling accusations back and forth at each other of either conducting illegal acts or giving the orders to do so.

b. Assessment:

- (1) *Arguments among conspirators are probably the rule rather than the exception, and in any case a conspiracy is established among those who knowingly join in criminal conduct. The further argument that Hitler made all the decisions without consultation was similarly irrelevant and not supported by the evidence.* (Taylor – page 528)
- (2) *Loyalty is a selective rather than an absolute goal, and loyalty to a man whose criminality had become apparent is itself a crime.* (Taylor – page 542)

- c. Both the person who issues an illegal order and the one who commits the act are wrong. Rare are leaders like Field Marshall Rommel. When provided Hitler's written order to execute captured commandos, the Desert Fox burned the paper and refused to pass the order onto subordinates.

Issue 14: Death penalty or long-term imprisonment

- a. Discussion: Number 3 of Mrs. Rajavi's "Ten Point Plan" calls for "the abolishment of the death penalty." None of the trials of the numerous courts judging Axis criminals were restricted by this limitation. The extent of the butchery that has

been conducted by the Iranian regime since 1979 will likely result in the population expecting the death penalty for the worst of the worst.

- b. Assessment: This is a long-term issue that should not be decided during the investigative phase. It must be resolved during the development of the future Iranian Constitution.

Issue 15: Records development and maintenance

- a. Discussion:

- (1) Records maintained by the Nazi government were extremely important for prosecutors during the Nuremberg Trials.
- (2) Ashraf III museum is a reconstruction of a similar facility that was destroyed by the Iraq/Iranian governments at Ashraf I.

- b. Assessment: In conjunction with museum operations, a library should be established to hold the investigative files. Backup investigation files should be stored outside of Albania. Location of the backup files should be determined by NCRI.

Issue 16. Investigative operations integration with Intelligence Office and Computer Operations Section

- a. Discussion: Ashraf III has a very effective intelligence office and a large state-of-the-art computer center with knowledgeable computer network operations (CNO) staff.

- b. Assessment:

- (1) Intelligence and CNO staffs should be supporting investigative operations in every way possible. The intelligence office has excellent contacts inside Iran and can take on missions identified by the investigate team.
- (2) Computer operations staff should support the crimes investigation team with both records maintenance and information searches.
- (3) NCRI should determine if this support is by tasking or with intelligence and computer support staff imbedded into the investigative team. No matter which is selected, periodic staff meetings should include representatives of the three organizations.

Issue 17: Documentation was the primary means of prosecution at Nuremberg

- a. Discussion: Justice Jackson successfully strove to have documentation serve as the primary means of evidence at the Nuremberg trial. Historically, Germans are well known for keeping records of just about everything. Gaining access to records was necessary for the IMT because of the volume of murders committed by the Nazi regime and the massive numbers of surviving German citizens who claimed they knew nothing. Even defendants at the IMT continually claimed to not know the extent of the atrocities.
- b. Assessment:
 - (1) The volume of protests and uprisings in Iran serve as confirmation that there will not be the same difficulty in finding victims, family members of victims, and witnesses willing to testify. However, preparation of the Tehran Trials necessitates gathering and securing as much documentation as possible. This is not just for trials, but for permanent archiving.
 - (2) *The one indisputable good to come out of the trial is that, to any sentient person, it documented beyond question Nazi Germany's crimes.* (Persico - page 441).

Issue 18. Importance of witnesses

- a. Discussion:
 - (1) The importance of witnesses is critical to further explaining the importance of documents.
 - (2) *A witness can convey meaning beyond the bare reading of documents.* (Taylor - page 310).
 - (3) *But the witness had put flesh on the documentary bones, and the drama of the occasion had emphasized the proof that millions of lives had been lost in the consequence of a brutality deliberate attack...* (Taylor - page 312)
- b. Assessment: Witness statements need to be developed now to support case prosecution preparation and for future reference. Also, maintaining knowledge of witness's location and availability is critical.

Issue 19: Photographs and recorded footage

- a. Discussion: The most powerful images that resonated at the Nuremberg Trials were motion picture footage of allied soldiers having to bulldoze mounds of

deceased people into mass graves to prevent an epidemic, the opening of ovens where bodies were incinerated, and massive collections of private property (to include gold teeth) that were collected by Nazi executioners.

- b. Assessment: Every photograph and film/DVD footage of Iranian atrocities need to be collected and archived. These in turn need to be developed in narratives to be shown at future Tehran Trials and to the world at every chance possible.

Issue 20: Need to develop database and cross reference crimes with perpetrators

- a. Discussion: The volume of crimes committed by the Iranian regime since 1979 will be overwhelming if not broken down into events consisting of what, who, where, when, and how.
- b. Assessment: Support of the computer center is necessary in developing computerized records. Back-up records need to be established and maintained outside Albania.

Issue 21: Additional study of *Judgement at Nuremberg* motion picture.

- a. Discussion:
 - (1) As mentioned in Issue 4, Telford Taylor served as lead American prosecutor for twelve subsequent Nuremberg Trials. Based on this subsequent work, a motion picture was created (following up an American Playhouse television series). Telford Taylor served as a technical advisor for the television series.
 - (2) For his work in writing the screenplay for the motion picture, Abby Mann won an Academy Award. Mann's screen play was developed to the trial of German judges corrupted by Nazism.
 - (3) No study of Nazi Germany, the Holocaust, and the Nuremberg Trials is complete without a viewing and studying the brilliant screenplay developed by Abby Mann.
- b. Assessment: It is recommended all members of the investigative, intelligence, and CNO team working on this project watch *Judgement at Nuremberg*.
 - (1) Although it is historical fiction, this film provides brilliant insight into how an entire country can be hijacked and the people who should be the line of defense against despicable corruption can become twisted and corrupt themselves. The film footage of the horrors against Jewish people is real.

- (2) *Judgement at Nuremberg* also provides an excellent example of the importance of the work to be conducted by the investigative team in their quest for justice against the tyranny that has been suffered in Iran since 1979.
- (3) As Robert Jackson stated in the first Nuremberg Trial: *The wrongs which we seek to condemn and punish have been so calculated, so malignant, and so devastating that civilization cannot tolerate their being ignored because it cannot survive their being repeated.* (Persico – page 135)
- (4) Link to *Judgement at Nuremberg* and key dialog from the motion picture is provided as Attachment 1 to this issue paper.

Issue 22: Draft Investigative Folder

a. Discussion:

- (1) The intensity of the work ahead is extensive. It is also a critical necessity to achieving justice.
- (2) As Robert Jackson stated: *To free them without trial would mock the dead and make cynics out of the living.* (Taylor – page 53)
- (3) As Telford Taylor stated: *These lies must be stamped and labeled for what they are now while the proof is fresh.* (Taylor – page 531)

- b. Assessment: Provided as Attachment 2 to this issue paper is an investigation template developed by former Director of the FBI/US Federal Judge/ Prosecutor for the Southern District of New York Louie Freeh and former Senior Antiterrorism Officer for all Coalition Forces in Iraq/Operations Chief for Task Force 134 (Detention Operations) Colonel Wes Martin.

Conclusion:

The aforementioned issues do not comprise a completely inclusive list of actions that need to be accomplished as the investigative operation is developed. Other requirements will present themselves as this project proceeds.

Closing comments made by Chief Justice of the first Nuremberg Trial, Sir Geoffrey Lawrence, applies as much to the religious extremists now terrorizing Iran as it did to Nazi Germany's criminals: *The truth is that they actively participated in all these crimes, or sat silent or acquiescent, witnessing the commission of crimes on a scale larger and more shocking than the world has ever had the misfortune to know...Where the facts*

warrant it, these men should be brought to trial so that among them who are guilty of these crimes should not escape punishment. (Taylor - page 587)

Attachment 1: Issue Paper, Examination of the 1945-1946 Nuremberg Trials in Support of Future Tehran Trials, dated January 22, 2026

Attachment 2: Issue Paper, Investigative Folder Template in Support of Future Tehran Trials, dated January 22, 2026

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Judgement at Nuremberg (Motion Picture)

Released 1961

Screenplay by Abby Mann, Directed by Stanley Kramer

<https://www.bing.com/search?q=judgement+at+Nuremberg+full+movie+free&FORM=QSRE3&ntref=1>

Script Excerpts

Opening statements:

Lead prosecutor (Richard Widmark as Prosecutor Tad Haywood):

The case is unusual in that the defendants are charged with crimes committed in the name of the law. These men together with their deceased or fugitive colleagues are the embodiment of what was passed for justice during the 3rd Reich. The defendants served as judges during the period of the 3rd Reich. Therefore you, your honors, as judges on the bench will be sitting as judges of judges in the dock and this is as it should be. For only a judge knows how much more a court is than a courtroom. It is a process and a spirit. It is the house of law. The defendants knew this too. They knew courtrooms well. They sat in their black robes. They distorted, they perverted, they destroyed justice and law in Germany. Now this in itself is undoubtedly a great crime. But the prosecution is not calling defendants to account for violating constitutional guarantees or withholding due process of law. The prosecution is calling into account for murder, brutalities, torture, atrocities. They share with all the leaders of the 3rd Reich responsibilities for the most malignant, the most calculated, the most devastating crimes in the history of all mankind. They are perhaps more guilty than some of the others, for they had attained maturity long before Hitler's rise to power. Their minds weren't warped at an early age by Nazi teachings. They embraced the ideologies of the 3rd Reich as educated adults when they, most of all, should have valued justice. Here they will receive the justice they denied others. They will be judged according to the evidence presented in this courtroom.

Defense attorney (Maximillian Schell as Defense Council Hans Rolfe):

The entire civilized world will follow closely what we do here, for this is not an ordinary trial by any means of the accept parochial sense. The devout purpose of this Tribunal is broader than the retribution of a few men. It is dedicated to the reconsecration of the temple of justice. It is dedicated to finding a code of justice the whole world will be responsible to. How will this code be established? It will be established in a clear honest, evaluation of responsibility of the crimes in the indictment stated by the prosecution. In the words of the great American jurist Oliver Wendell Holmes, "This

responsibility will not be found only in documents that no one contests or denies. It will be found in consecration of a political and social nature. It will be found, most of all, in the character of men.”

The judge does not make the laws; he carries out the laws of his country. The statement, “My country right or wrong” was expressed by a great American patriot. It is no less true for a German patriot.

It is not only (the defendant) on trial here, it is the German people.

Testimonies:

1st Witness (John Wengraf as His Honor Herr Justizrat Dr Karl Wieck – former Minister of Justice in [Weimar Germany](#) in discussing the decay of Germany’s justice system after 1935):

Judges became subject to something outside of objective justice. They became subject to what was necessary for the protection of the country. The first consideration of the judge became the punishment for acts against the state, rather than objective evaluation of the case. The right to appeal was eliminated. Supreme Court of the Reich was replaced by people’s and special courts. The concept of race was made a legal concept for the first time. The result was to hand over the administration of justice into the hand of the dictatorship.

Changes in criminal law was characterized by the inflation of the death penalty. Sentences were passed against the defendants just because they were Poles or Jews or politically undesirable. Noval National Socialist measures were introduced, among them sexual sterilization for those characterized as asocial.

Q: *Was it possible for a judge to wear a Swastika and do what was the best for his country?* **A:** No, it was not possible.

It was never used as a weapon of political opponents.

2nd Witness (Karl Swenson as Dr. Heinrich Geuter, Feldenstein's lawyer):

Response to question of quality about legitimacy of the trial: Trial was used as a showplace for National Socialism.

Response to question about expectation of the trial: I expected the worst. Trials were marked by extreme brutality.

Prosecution Discussing Atrocities (Richard Widmark as Prosecutor Tad Haywood):

Your honors. I offer in evidence a decree signed by Adolph Hitler directing that all persons accused or suspected of disloyalty or resistance of any sort might be arrested secretly with no notice to any friends or relatives without any trial what-so-ever and put into concentration camps. I also offer a group of orders issued under that decree. Each one signed by one of the defendants by which hundreds of persons were arrested and placed in concentration camps.

Your honors. The persons on trial today did not personally administer the concentration camps. They never had to beat victims or pull the levers that released gas into the chambers. But as the documents that we have introduced into this case have shown these defendants fashioned and executed laws that rendered judgements which sent millions of victims to their destinations.

(Film review on concentration camps): The map shows the number of and locations of concentration camps under the 3rd Reich. Buchenwald Concentration Camp was founded in 1933. Its inmates numbered about 80,000. The motto at Buchenwald, "Break the body, break the spirit, break the heart." The ovens at Buchenwald – evidence of last-minute evidence to dispose of the bodies. Six million died from the reports by the Nazi's own figures - but the real figure no one knows.

Defendants Discussing Ability to Mass Kill (Otto Waldis as Nazi Criminal Pohl):

It's possible. It all depends on your facilities. Say you have two chambers to accommodate 2,000 people. Figure it out. It's possible to get rid of ten thousand in half an hour. You don't even need guards to do it. You can tell them they are going to take a shower. Then instead of the water you turn on the gas. It's not the killing that's the problem; it's disposing of the bodies. That's the problem.

Defense Response to Atrocities (Maximillian Schell as Defense Council Hans Rolfe):

May it please the Tribunal: Yesterday the Tribunal witnessed some films that were shocking films, devastating films. As a German I feel ashamed that such things could take place in my country. There can never be a justification for them, not in generations, not in centuries. But I do think it was wrong, indecent, and terribly unfair of the prosecution to show us those films in this case, in this court, at this time, against these defendants. I cannot protest too strongly against such tactics. What is the prosecution trying to prove. Is he trying to prove that the German people were all responsible for these events or that they were even aware of them. Because, if he is he is not stating facts, and he knows he is not. The secrecy of the operations, the geographical location of the camps, the breakdown of the communications in the last days of the war, when the exterminations rose into the millions show only too clearly that he is not telling the truth. The truth is these fatalities were brought about by the few extremists, the criminals. Very few Germans knew what was going on. Very few. None of us knew what

was happening. The most ironic part of it is the prosecution show these films against these defendants – men who stayed in power for one reason only to prevent worse things from happening. Who is the braver man: the man who escapes or resigns in times of peril, or the man who stays on his post at the risk of his own personal safety.

Testimony of Repentant Defendant (Burt Lancaster as Ernst Janning):

I wish to testify about the Feldenstein Case because it was the most significant trial of the period. It is important not only for the Tribunal to understand it, but for the whole German people. But in order to understand it, one must understand the period of which it happened. There was a fever over the land, a fever of disgrace, or indignity, of hunger. We had a democracy, yes, but it was torn by elements from within. Above all, there was fear. Fear of today, fear of tomorrow, fear of our neighbors, and fear of ourselves.

Only when you understand that can you understand what Hitler meant to us. Because he said to us, "Lift your heads. Be proud to be German. There are devils among us, Communists, Liberalists, Jews, Gypsies. One of these devils will be destroyed, your misery will be destroyed." It was the old, old story of the sacrificial lamb.

What about those of us who knew better. We who knew the words were lies. Why did we sit silent? Why did we take part? Because we loved our country. What difference does it make when a few political extremists lose their rights? What difference does it make if a few racial minorities lose their rights? It is only a passing phase. It is only a stage we are going through. It will be discarded sooner or later. Hitler himself will be discarded, sooner or later. Our country is in danger. We will watch out of the shadows. We will go forward. "Forward" is the great password.

And history tells how well we succeeded, your honor. We succeeded beyond our widest dreams. The very elements of hate and power about Hitler that mesmerized Germany, mesmerized the world. We found ourselves with sudden powerful allies. Things that had been denied to us as a democracy were open to us now. The world said, "Go ahead, take it. Take it." Take Sudetenland, take the Rhineland, take all of Austria, take it" Then one day we looked around and found we were in a more terrible danger. The ritual that began in this courtroom swept over the land like a raging roaring disease.

What was going to be a passing phase had become the way of life. Your honor, I was content to sit silent during this trial (*referencing present Nuremberg trial*). I was content to tend my roses. I was even content to let Counsel try to save my name until I realized in order to save it he would have to raise the specter again. You have seen him do it. He has done it here in this courtroom. He has suggested the 3rd Reich worked for the benefit of people. He has suggested we sterilized men for the welfare of the country. He

has suggested that the old Jew did sleep with the 16-year-old girl after all. Once more, it is being done for love of country.

It is not easy to tell the truth. But if there is to be any salvation for Germany, we who know our guilt must admit it, whatever the pain and humiliation. I had reached my verdict on the Feldenstein Case before I ever came into the courtroom. I would have found him guilty whatever the evidence. It was not a trial at all. It was a sacrificial ritual in which Feldenstein the Jew was the helpless victim. (*Note – this fictionalized case was based on real life Katzenberger Case*).

My Counsel will have you believe we were not aware of the concentration camps. Not aware! Where were we? Where were we when Hitler began shrieking his hate in the Reichstag. Where were we when our neighbors were being dragged down out the middle of the night to Dachau. Where were we when every village in Germany that has a railroad terminal with passenger cars filled with children and being carried off to their extermination. Where were we when they cried out in the night to us. Were we dumb, blind.

The Counsel says we were not aware of the extermination of the millions. He would give you the excuse, we were only aware of the extermination of the hundreds. Does that make us any less guilty? Maybe we didn't know the details, but if we didn't know it was because we didn't want to know.

I am going to tell them the truth. I am going to tell them the truth even if the whole world conspires against it. I am going to tell them the truth about their Ministry of Justice. Werner Lampe, an old man who cries into his Bible now. An old man who profited by the expropriation of every man he sent to a concentration camp. Friedrich Hofstetter, a butcher who knew how to take orders, who sent men before him to be sterilized like so many digits. Emil Hahn, a decayed, corrupt bigot, obsessed by the evil within himself. Ernst Janning, worse than any of them because he knew what they were and he went along with them. Ernst Janning made his life excrement, because he walked with them.

Defense Comments (Maximillian Schell as Defense Council Hans Rolfe):

Your honor, it is my duty to defend Ernst Janning and yet Ernst Janning has said he is guilty. There is no doubt he feels his guilt. He made a great error in going along with the Nazi movement hoping it would be good for his country. But if he is to be found guilty there are others who also went along who also must be found guilty. Ernst Janning said, "We succeeded beyond our wildest dreams."

Why did we succeed, your honor. What about the rest of the world? Did they not know the intentions of the 3rd Reich? Did they not hear the words of Hitler's broadcasts all over the world? Did they not read his intentions in *Mein Kampf*, published in every

corner of the world? Where is the responsibility of the Soviet Union who signed in 1939 the pact with Hitler and enabled him to make war? Are we not to find Russia guilty. Where is the responsibility of the Vatican who signed in 1933 the Concorde with Hitler, giving him his first prestige? Are we not to find the Vatican guilty? Where is the responsibility of the world leader Winston Churchill who said in an open letter to the *London Times* in 1938, 1938 your honor, "Where England to suffer national disaster, I pray to God to send a man of the mind and strength of Adolph Hitler." Are we not to find Winston Churchill guilty? Where is the responsibility of those American industrialists who help Hitler to redevelop his armaments and profited for that rebuilding? Are we not to find not to find the American industrialists guilty? No, your Honor, no. The whole world is responsible for Hitler in Germany.

It is an easy thing to condemn one man in the dock. It is easy to condemn the German people to speak of the basic flaw in the German character that allowed Hitler to rise to power. At the same time, constantly ignore the basic flaw of character that made the Russians sign a pact with him.

Ernst Janning said, "He is guilty." If he is, then Ernst Jannings guilt is the world's guilt. No more. No less.

Prosecution Closing Comments (Richard Widmark as Prosecutor Tad Haywood):

Your Honors, during the three years that have past since the end of the war in Europe mankind has not crossed over into Jordan. In our own country fear of war has been revived, and we must look once more to our defenses. There's talk of Cold War while men and women die in real wars. The echoes of persecution and atrocities will not be stilled. These events cannot help but color what happens in this courtroom.

But somewhere in the midst of these events responsibilities for these crimes that we brought forth in this trial must be placed in true perspective. This is the decision that faces Your Honors. This is the dilemma of our times. It is a dilemma that rests with you. Prosecution rests.

Judges' Conclusion Statement (Spencer Tracy as Judge Dan Haywood):

Simple murders and atrocities do not constitute the gravement of the charges in this indictment. Rather that is the charge on conscience participation in a nation-wide government-organized system of cruelty and injustice in violation of every moral and legal principle known to all civilized nations. The Tribunal has carefully studied the record and found therein an abundant evidence to support beyond a reasonable doubt the charges against these defendants.

Herr Rolfe in his very skillful defense has asserted there are others who must share the ultimate responsibility for what happened here in Germany. There is truth in this. The real complaining party at the bar in this courtroom is civilization. But the Tribunal does say the men of the dock are responsible for their actions. Men who sat in black robes in judgement on other men; men who took part in the enactment of laws and decrees. The purpose of which was the extermination of human beings. Men who in executive positions actively participated in the enforcement of these laws, illegal even under German law. The principle of criminal law in every civilized society has this in common. Any person who sways another to commit murder, any person who furnishes the lethal weapon for the purpose of the crime, any person who is an accessory to the crime, is guilty.

Herr Rolfe further asserts that the defendant, Janning, was an extraordinary jurist and acted in what he thought was the best interest of his country. There is truth in this also. Janning to be sure is a tragic figure. We believe he loathed the evil he did. But compassion for the present torture of his soul must not beget forgetfulness of the torture and the death of the millions by the government of which he was a part. Janning's record and his fate illuminate the most shattering truth that has emerged from this trial. If he and all the other defendants had been degraded perverts, if all the leaders of the 3rd Reich had been sadistic monsters and maniacs, then these events would have no more moral significance than an earthquake or any other natural catastrophe. But this trial has shown that under a nation precedence, ordinary, even able, and extraordinary men can delude themselves into the commission of crimes so vast that they beggar the imagination. No one who has sat through the trial can ever forget them. Men sterilized because of political bias, a mockery made of friendship and faith, the murder of children. How easily it can happen.

There are those in our own country too, who speak of the protection of country, of survival. A decision must be made. In the life of every nation at the very moment when the grasp of the enemy is at its throat, then it seems that the only way to survive is to use the means of the enemy. To rest survival on what is expedient, to look the other way. Well, the answer to that is - survival is what? A country isn't a rock. It's an extension of oneself. It's what it stands for. What it stands for when standing for something is the most difficult.

Before the people of the world, let it now be noted that here in our decision, this is what we stand for: justice, truth, and the value of a single human being.

Attachment 2: Issue Paper, Investigative Folder Template in Support of Future Tehran Trials, dated January 22, 2026

**Tehran Trials
Cover Sheet**

File # _____ Name of Iranian Official: _____

Photo Inserted Here

Date of Birth _____ Location of Birth _____

Family and Relative Information as Available

| Name | Location |
|-------|----------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

Add more lines for additional positions as necessary

| Current Position | Current Location/Address |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | |
| _____ | |

| Past Positions Held Within Iranian Government | Dates (from – to) |
|---|-------------------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

Add more lines for additional positions as necessary

Past Addresses

Dates (from – to)

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Add more lines for additional addresses as necessary

Main Colleagues and Counterparts in Iran

Name/Relationship to Subject

Address

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Add more lines for additional information as necessary

Travel history and activities in other countries

| Activity | Location | Dates |
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Add more lines for additional information as necessary

Real Estate and Bank Accounts

| Name of Real Estate or Bank | Location | Dates |
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Add more lines for additional information as necessary

Outstanding Sanctions, Charges, Warrants, Lawsuits or Investigations

Type

Issued by

Dates

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Add more lines for additional information as necessary

Social Media Accounts and Entries

Type

Where Posted

Dates

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Add more lines for additional information as necessary

INTERPOL Information

Specific Information

Dates

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Add more lines for additional information as necessary

Specific Crime # 1 (Page 1 of _____)

Crime

Dates

Analysis of Specific Crime #1
(Who, What, Where, When, How)

Analysis will take many pages – this is format example only

- a. Victim/Witness Statement 1a (*Name, Date Administered, Location Administered*)
- b. Victim/Witness Statement 1b (*Name, Date Administered, Location Administered*)
- c. Victim/Witness Statement 1c (*Name, Date Administered, Location Administered*)

Witness Statement 1a: (Page 1 of _____)
(Who, What, Where, When, How)

I, (*Name of Witness/Victim*), provide the following testimony:

(Initials of Witness/Victim) _____

Statements will take many pages – this is format example only

_____ (Initials of Witness/Victim)

Given this (*day*) of (*month*), (*year*) at (*location where statement was administered*).

Signed: (*Witness/Victim of Crime*):

Witness (*Administration of Statement*): _____ Date: _____

Witness (*Administration of Statement*): _____ Date: _____

Supporting Evidence Log 1a:

(Government documents, photographs, other related material concerning this crime)

a.

b.

c.

d.

Specific Crime # 2 (Page 1 of _____)

Crime

Dates

Analysis of Specific Crime #1
(*Who, What, Where, When, How*)

- a. Victim/Witness Statement 2a (*Name, Date Administered, Location Administered*)
- b. Victim/Witness Statement 2b (*Name, Date Administered, Location Administered*)
- c. Victim/Witness Statement 2c (*Name, Date Administered, Location Administered*)

Add more numbered crimes and victim/witnesses as necessary