

Codebook: The International Criminal Tribunals Database

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Brief Overview of the Dataset

This dataset contains information on defendants brought up on charges in front of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (n=50), the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (n=160), and the Special Court for Sierra Leone (n=8) from 1994 to 2010. Data are available on the number of guilty counts, type of guilty counts (war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity), mitigating and aggravating factors at sentencing, and the length of sentence (both initially and on appeal).

These data are excerpted from an ongoing database maintained by James David Meernik. The full database and accompanying codebook (excerpted, as applicable, below) are available at:

<http://www.psci.unt.edu/meernik/International%20Criminal%20Tribunals%20Website.htm>

Meernik and his co-authors have published extensively using these original data (Meernik, 2011; King and Greening, 2007; Meernik and Aloisi, 2007; Meernik, 2005; Meernik, King and Dancy, 2005; Meernik and King, 2003, 2001).

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Variables

tribunal: Tribunal

The tribunal in which the defendant is prosecuted.

1. International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda [ICTR]
2. International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia [ICTY]
3. Special Court for Sierra Leone [SCSL]

lastName: Defendant's Last Name

The last name of the defendant.

firstName: Defendant's First Name

The first name of the defendant.

verdict: Whether the defendant was found guilty

The verdict rendered in the case.

1. Guilty
0. Not guilty, dismissed, acquitted, dropped, or withdrawn

lifeAtTrial: Whether trial resulted in a life sentence

Whether a defendant was found guilty and given a life sentence at the trial stage (regardless of what happened on appeal).

1. Yes
0. No

genocide: Whether defendant was convicted of genocide

Was defendant convicted of genocide?

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

crimAg: Whether defendant was convicted of crimes against humanity

Was defendant convicted of crimes against humanity?

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

warCrimes: Whether defendant was convicted of war crimes

Was defendant convicted of war crimes?

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

crimRank: Worst crime defendant was convicted of

Highest rank of crime for which defendant found guilty.

- 1. War crimes
- 2. Crimes against humanity
- 3. Genocide

numGuil: Number of guilty counts

Number of counts on which the defendant was found guilty.

guiltyPlea: Whether defendant plead guilty

Did the defendant plead guilty?

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

surrender: Whether defendant surrendered

Did defendant voluntarily surrender to the authorities?

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

remorse: Whether defendant showed remorse

Did the defendant show remorse for their actions?

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

cooperate: Whether defendant cooperated

Did the defendant cooperate with the prosecuting authorities?

- 1. Yes
- 0. No

mfTotal: Number of mitigating factors cited

The total number of mitigating factor taken into account for sentencing purposes.

afTotal: Number of aggravating factors cited

The total number of aggravating factors taken into account for sentencing purposes.

sentence: Sentence (in months) imposed at trial

The length of the sentence imposed at trial, measured in months. Life sentences are coded as 624 months which is equal to the longest non-life sentence in the database.

appSentence: Sentence (in months) imposed on appeal

The length of the sentence imposed on appeal, measured in months. Life sentences are coded as 624 months which is equal to the longest non-life sentence in the database.

trialAppDiff: Difference in sentences imposed at trial and on appeal

The difference between the length of sentence imposed at trial and on appeal. Positive values indicate that the sentence was reduced on appeal while negative values indicate that the sentence was increased on appeal.

References

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