

Summary

Crimes against humanity, together with war crimes, crime of aggression and Genocide, create a group of so called crimes under the international law. For these crimes it is characteristic that they are so grave and so dangerous that their punishment is a matter of the whole international community. Such punishment for these crimes has already been carried out several times on international level. As an example we can use the tribunals for former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, which are still operating.

This thesis deals with crimes against humanity in practice of International Criminal Court. This court, unlike the previous international criminal tribunals, is a permanent judicial institution. The main focus of the research is a substantive law characteristic of crimes against humanity i.e., physical and mental elements of these crimes. The aim of the thesis is to find out whether the International Criminal Court brought some progress to substantive law definition of aforementioned crimes.

The thesis is divided into four chapters. The first chapter deals with the position of crimes against humanity in the system of the international law. The aim of this chapter is to define the basic terms of the subject and to determine the position of crimes against humanity in the system of the international law.

The second chapter deals with the history of the crimes and is divided into three subchapters. The first subchapter is dedicated to the origin of the concept of crimes against humanity, which dates to the end of World War I. The second subchapter deals with prosecution of crimes perpetrated during World War II. The third subchapter observes the evolution of the concept in the second half of the 20th century, emphasizing on the work of so called ad hoc tribunals for former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

The thesis centres on its third chapter, that focuses on physical and mental elements of the crimes against humanity in the practice of the International Criminal Court. The elements of the crimes are analyzed in criminal law manner. Then each of the elements of the crimes is discussed in four subchapters.

The final chapter contains short study of the case of Germain Katanga, the first person convicted of a crime against humanity before the International Criminal Court.

In two subchapters, informations about factual circumstances of the case and about the decision of the court are provided.

In conclusion, the thesis carries a summary of the obtained facts and findings and answers the research question with research statement.