

National Jurisprudence summary

Dutch case no. number 09/748013.12.15 December 2017 (The Hague District Court)

In the context of a civil war (non-international armed conflict) between the Derg military regime and opposition movements going on in Ethiopia from 1 February 1978 up and until 31 December 1981, the defendant was the highest Derg representative in the province of Gojjam and as such responsible for the elimination of any opposition within the province. In this context, he had a large group of mainly teenagers arrested, tortured and killed on the pretext of their affiliation with the EPRP, the main opposition movement in Gojjam at the time.

Based upon the testimony of a number of witnesses and documents received from the Ethiopian authorities and found in the defendant's home, the court established the involvement of the defendant in the arbitrary detention of over 300 persons in cruel and degrading circumstances, the torture of more than 6 persons and the killing of 75 persons. He ordered the detention and killings and did not seek to stop the torture.

The District Court found the defendant guilty of war crimes, arbitrary deprivation of freedom, inhuman detention conditions, torture and killing.

Sentence:

Life imprisonment.