


# Contexts, Requirements, and Consequences of the Exercise of Domestic Jurisdiction by States over International Crimes (With a View to the Relationship Between Iran and the International Criminal Court)

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## Abstract

International crimes, as the most severe violations of human rights and humanitarian law—including crimes against humanity, genocide, and war crimes—have consistently been the subject of discussion and examination in both international and domestic forums. The exercise of domestic jurisdiction by states in confronting these crimes is regarded as one of the most complex and challenging issues in international law. Many states, aiming to preserve national sovereignty and ensure justice within the framework of their domestic laws, undertake jurisdiction over such crimes. On the other hand, international tribunals such as the International Criminal Court (ICC), as a global authority, seek to prosecute international criminals through coordination with domestic judicial systems. In this context, Iran's relationship with the ICC also faces particular challenges, as Iran has not yet joined this institution. Nonetheless, some international crimes are addressed within Iran's domestic legal framework, indicating the country's effort to exercise domestic jurisdiction over international crimes. The main objective of this thesis is to examine the necessary conditions for enabling Iran to exercise jurisdiction over international crimes in its domestic courts, to the extent that recourse to the jurisdiction of foreign international courts becomes unnecessary. Library and online research methods were used to collect information. Additionally, data were gathered through the use of note-taking tools.

**Keywords:** Domestic jurisdiction, international crimes, International Criminal Court (ICC)

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## 1. Introduction

Universal jurisdiction refers to the exercise of jurisdiction by a state that has no territorial or national link to the matter under consideration; in other words, universal jurisdiction is a form of criminal jurisdiction based on the nature of the crime, without regard to the place of commission, the nationality of the perpetrator or the victim, or any other connection between the crime and the state exercising jurisdiction. In certain international instruments, the exercise of universal jurisdiction by member states takes on a binding character, and all states are obligated to prosecute, as seen in conventions such as the Convention Against Torture and the Geneva Conventions concerning war crimes (Hakimiha & Ziaei, 2013).

International law is founded on the principle of cooperation among states, not on subordination and obedience. The participation and cooperation of all members of the international community, especially states, in maintaining international public order and confronting any factor that may endanger such order is considered a social necessity and a legal obligation (Jafar Salehi, 2012).

The establishment of the International Criminal Court is the result of years of tireless efforts by the international community to combat the ominous phenomenon of impunity and to develop the fundamental rules of international criminal law. One of the important issues in international criminal law is the jurisdiction to apply criminal laws beyond the borders of state sovereignty.

The contexts, requirements, and consequences of the exercise of domestic jurisdiction by states over international crimes is a subject that explores the complex and multidimensional relationship between national and international legal systems. In the contemporary world, with the increasing spread of international crimes and their impact on global security and human rights, the necessity of a precise examination and analysis of this issue is more strongly felt than ever before.

For a more comprehensive understanding of this matter, the history and structure of domestic and international jurisdictions, the governing legal principles, and the consequences arising from the interaction of these two levels of jurisdiction must be addressed. Domestic jurisdiction refers to the power and authority of states to prosecute and punish crimes committed within their territory or by their nationals. This jurisdiction, which is generally recognized in national legal systems, has developed over the past centuries and, particularly after the World Wars and the establishment of institutions such as the United Nations and the International Criminal Court (ICC), has taken on new dimensions.

In this regard, it is important to examine how domestic laws and judicial practices can align with, or conflict with, international principles and norms. The history of domestic jurisdiction over international crimes broadly dates back to before the establishment of the ICC. Throughout different periods, various countries independently developed their national jurisdictions in different fields, including criminal law. This development has usually been influenced by internal transformations, national needs, and international pressures.

However, in the contemporary era, the need for a more coordinated global legal system to confront international crimes and promote global justice is clearly evident. This need became particularly apparent as a result of war crimes and severe human rights violations committed during the World Wars and other international conflicts. In response to this need, new legal structures emerged with the aim of coordination and cooperation between national and international legal systems.

The International Criminal Court (ICC), as the main international institution for the prosecution and punishment of international crimes, has played a significant role in this field. With the establishment of the ICC in 1998 and its entry into force in 2002, a new legal framework for addressing international crimes has been provided. This court has jurisdiction over war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, and the crime of aggression, which reflects a global commitment to promoting justice and combating severe human rights violations.

Despite the existence of this international body, domestic jurisdictions still play a key role in prosecuting and punishing international crimes. Many countries, by enacting specific national laws, have created the necessary grounds for cooperation with the ICC and other international institutions. These laws, especially those related to international crimes and judicial cooperation, are often harmonized with international norms and principles to ensure the realization of international justice.

Nevertheless, the interaction between domestic and international jurisdictions can entail particular challenges. One of the most significant challenges is the potential conflicts between domestic and international laws. These conflicts may arise from fundamental differences in the principles and judicial procedures of national and international systems. For example, some countries, due to the specific characteristics of their legal systems or cultural and political approaches, may face difficulties in

accepting or implementing certain international principles. These conflicts can lead to weaknesses in the global judicial system and hinder the full realization of international justice.

International agreements and various treaties concerning international crimes have aimed to minimize these challenges and establish the necessary coordination between domestic and international jurisdictions. For instance, conventions related to genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity are specifically designed to obligate states to adopt and implement international standards in these areas. These treaties, usually adopted under the supervision of various international organizations, aim to promote coordination and cooperation on a global scale in order to prevent the commission and continuation of such crimes.

Alongside this, universal principles such as the principle of individual criminal responsibility and the principle of non-impunity serve as the foundation of international rules regarding the prosecution and punishment of international crimes. The principle of individual criminal responsibility means that each individual is accountable for their unlawful actions and cannot be exempt from punishment due to such actions. This principle, especially in the context of international crimes, emphasizes that no individual, even high-ranking state officials, can escape criminal responsibility for committing international crimes.

At the same time, the consequences of the exercise of domestic jurisdiction over international crimes can be highly complex and multifaceted. On the one hand, such jurisdictions can lead to the strengthening of national judicial systems and the improvement of the quality of domestic justice.

## 2. Jurisdiction of the Court over International Crimes

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is an international judicial body that addresses international crimes such as serious violations of human rights. Its jurisdiction is divided into two categories:

### A) Core Jurisdictions:

1. **War Crimes:** Includes violations of the laws of war such as the killing of civilians, torture, and the use of prohibited weapons, based on Article 8 of the Rome Statute.
2. **Crimes Against Humanity:** Includes mass killings, slavery, and deliberate extermination, based on Article 7 of the Rome Statute.
3. **Genocide:** Includes the intentional killing of members of an ethnic, racial, or religious group with the aim of destroying that group, based on Article 6 of the Rome Statute ([Nezhadimanesh & Bezar, 2017](#)).

### B) Subsidiary Jurisdictions of the International Criminal Court:

1. **Complementarity Jurisdiction:** The Court intervenes only when states are unwilling or unable to prosecute cases themselves (Article 17 of the Rome Statute).
2. **Jurisdiction Based on New Crimes:** The possibility of expanding the Court's jurisdiction through amendments and new international treaties.
3. **Jurisdiction Over Legal Entities:** Currently limited to natural persons, but there is a possibility of extension to institutions and legal entities in the future ([Mirmohamadsadeghi & Abed, 2011](#)).

## 3. Comparison with Domestic Jurisdictions

Comparing the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC) with the domestic jurisdictions of various countries helps to understand the differences and similarities between these two types of jurisdiction and allows us to better comprehend how the ICC interacts with national judicial systems.

### A) Fundamental Differences in Jurisdiction:

1. **Universal Jurisdiction versus Local Jurisdiction:** The ICC has universal jurisdiction to adjudicate international crimes, whereas national courts operate only within the geographical and legal boundaries of their own countries.
2. **Subject-Matter Jurisdiction:** The ICC deals exclusively with four core crimes (war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, and crimes of aggression), while national courts address a wide range of offenses, including financial crimes and drug trafficking.

3. **Judicial and Supervisory Powers:** The ICC directly oversees international crimes, but domestic courts operate solely based on national laws and are not subject to international supervision (Fallahian, 2006).

#### B) Legal and Judicial Similarities:

1. **Impact of International Laws on Domestic Laws:** Many countries, by adopting international treaties, have aligned their laws with global standards such as the Geneva Conventions and the Genocide Convention. This alignment facilitates the fulfillment of international obligations and cooperation with the International Criminal Court.
2. **Common Concepts in Judicial Jurisdictions:** Despite their independent functions, the ICC and national legal systems observe shared principles such as "non-discrimination" and the "right to a fair trial," which are recognized as international standards in human rights and criminal law.
3. **Interactions and Coordination:**
  1. **Cooperation and Information Exchange:** The ICC and national courts collaborate in areas such as exchanging information and evidence. These interactions aid the effective administration of international justice, and countries can assist ICC investigations.
  2. **Coordination and Implementation Challenges:** Legal and structural differences between the ICC and domestic systems can pose obstacles to justice implementation. Issues like discrepancies in laws and judicial procedures require effective agreements and protocols between the ICC and member states (Shayegan Fard, 2008).

#### 4. Challenges in the Enforcement of Judgments

The International Criminal Court (ICC), as a global institution for addressing international crimes, faces numerous challenges in enforcing its judgments. These challenges stem from legal, political, and practical complexities and affect the Court's effectiveness in delivering international justice.

##### A) Lack of State Cooperation in Enforcement:

One of the major challenges for the ICC is the lack of cooperation from states in enforcing its judgments. Some countries may be unwilling to execute ICC rulings due to political or diplomatic reasons. This non-cooperation can result in failure to achieve justice and undermine the Court's credibility.

##### B) Practical and Operational Challenges:

1. **Resource and Infrastructure Limitations:** The ICC faces difficulties related to financial and logistical constraints in enforcing judgments, monitoring, and transferring convicts, especially in low-income countries. These issues can cause delays and reduce effectiveness.
2. **Security and Protection Issues:** Enforcement may involve security threats to ICC personnel, judges, and convicts, particularly in regions affected by armed conflicts.

##### C) Political and Diplomatic Challenges:

1. **Political Influences on Enforcement:** Some countries may refuse to enforce ICC judgments for political reasons or diplomatic relations, especially in cases involving political or military leaders.
2. **International and Diplomatic Pressures:** The ICC may face pressure from states, international organizations, or interest groups to alter or moderate its rulings, which can undermine the administration of justice (Abangah et al., 2019).

#### 5. Impacts of the Court on International Justice

##### A: Examination of Judicial Outcomes:

The International Criminal Court (ICC), as a key institution in the international legal system, has significant impacts on the realization of justice and combating international crimes. The Court's judicial outcomes affect not only international justice but also domestic systems, international obligations, and the behavior of member states.

1- **Advancing Justice and Law Enforcement:** By prosecuting serious crimes such as war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, the Court plays a vital role in enforcing international laws. The ICC's judgments demonstrate the global

community's will to address severe human rights violations. For example, the conviction of Thomas Lubanga Dyilo in 2012 symbolizes the Court's capability to achieve international justice.

**2- Creating Legal Models and Influencing Domestic Laws:** The Court's rulings can serve as legal precedents for domestic judicial systems. These judgments, particularly in clarifying international rules and principles, can help strengthen and harmonize domestic laws with global standards. For instance, the ICC's definition of genocide can directly impact the reform and enhancement of national laws.

**3- Strengthening Human Rights and Accountability:** By addressing crimes involving human rights violations and establishing individual responsibility, the Court contributes to the advancement of human rights globally. It is recognized as a fundamental tool in the international legal system against injustice and impunity. ICC rulings against leaders who have violated human rights exemplify its positive effects in realizing human rights (Valizadeh et al., 2021).

#### **B: Analysis of Impacts on International Communities**

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has profound effects on international communities in the fields of human rights and international humanitarian law. These impacts are evident from social, political, and legal perspectives and emphasize the Court's role in shaping international institutions and strengthening global justice.

**1- Promotion of Human Rights Culture and International Justice:** The ICC's rulings on war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity serve as global models for enforcing justice and respecting human rights. These rulings have had a significant influence, especially in crisis-affected societies such as Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, enhancing the culture of human rights and justice.

**2- Impact on International Cooperation and Diplomatic Relations:** The ICC has strengthened judicial cooperation among countries, the exchange of information, and the effective implementation of international rulings. Moreover, countries' adherence to the Court's obligations improves diplomatic relations and builds mutual trust at the international level.

**3- Effect on Transitional Justice and Reconstruction Processes:** By addressing international crimes, the ICC facilitates processes of peace, reconciliation, and reconstruction in post-conflict societies. The Court's rulings and procedures support victims' rights and play a crucial role in healing social wounds and establishing stability in affected regions.

**4- Psychological and Social Impacts on Victims and Affected Communities:** The pursuit of justice through the ICC strengthens the victims' sense of justice, reduces fear and stress caused by serious crimes, and increases public trust in international judicial systems. These factors significantly contribute to the psychological and social recovery of affected communities (Shayegan Fard, 2008).

### **6. Advancements in International Criminal Law and the Role of Domestic Courts in Prosecuting the Crime of Aggression**

Recent developments in international criminal law have strengthened the hope that domestic courts can also prosecute the crime of aggression, similar to war crimes and crimes against humanity. Aggression, as one of the most complex international crimes, refers to the unlawful use of military force against another country and has devastating effects on societies and human rights. The International Criminal Court (ICC) holds official jurisdiction over this crime; however, an important issue is the capacity of domestic courts to try it.

According to principles of international law, states must harmonize their national laws with international regulations to enable the prosecution of such crimes at the national level. Enhancing domestic judicial capacity in this field helps reduce impunity and promotes better enforcement of justice. Moreover, if domestic courts handle this crime, the burden on the ICC will lessen, and many cases will be resolved nationally. This trend represents a significant step towards strengthening international cooperation, advancing criminal justice, and increasing accountability for serious international crimes (Nezhadimanesh & Bezar, 2017).

### **7. Impacts of International Jurisdictions on Iran's Domestic Judicial System**

This section analyzes the fundamental and significant changes that have occurred in Iran's domestic laws following its acceptance and interaction with international jurisdictions. These changes include essential reforms in criminal, civil, and procedural laws aimed at harmonizing with global standards and fulfilling the country's international obligations. Furthermore,

this section examines how judicial processes, particularly in the field of human rights, have evolved, affecting case handling and the delivery of justice, demonstrating how these changes have influenced the Iranian judicial system and strengthened its compliance with international commitments.

#### **A. Review of Legal Changes:**

The impact of international jurisdictions on Iran's domestic judicial system is evident in legal reforms. These reforms primarily aim to align with international requirements and improve human rights standards, criminal justice, and fair trial guarantees. Changes involve amendments to legal provisions, enactment of new laws, and revisions in judicial procedures targeting the harmonization of domestic law with international obligations. Additionally, enhancing international cooperation through accession to treaties and participation in global judicial institutions has played a crucial role in these developments, resulting in the improvement and international standard alignment of Iran's judicial system.

##### **Alignment with International Standards:**

- *Ratification and Implementation of International Treaties:* Iran has acceded to several international treaties and conventions that have influenced its domestic laws. For instance, joining international human rights covenants has led to legal amendments aimed at complying with global standards, including reforms in human rights legislation and the establishment of new regulations to ensure human rights protection.
- *Legal Reforms:* Following accession to international treaties, Iran has been compelled to amend its laws, including updating criminal, civil, and procedural codes to align with international principles, such as reforms in the Islamic Penal Code and criminal procedure law.

##### **Developments in Criminal Law:**

- *Abolition or Mitigation of Punishments Violating Human Rights:* Changes have been made in the types and severity of punishments to comply with human rights, including abolishing or mitigating certain punishments such as the death penalty in specific cases.
- *Enhancement of the Rights of the Accused and Fair Trial Guarantees:* Legal reforms have focused on strengthening defendants' rights and ensuring fair trial procedures.

##### **Changes in Human Rights Laws:**

- *Strengthening Human Rights Protections:* Iran's accession to international treaties has reinforced domestic human rights laws, guaranteeing fundamental rights such as freedom of expression, non-discrimination, and fair trial rights.
- *Establishment of Oversight Bodies:* New institutions have been created to monitor compliance with human rights standards and to provide periodic reports on this matter (Fallahian, 2006).

#### **B. Their Effects on the Judicial System**

Legal changes in Iran's judicial system, especially following interaction with international jurisdictions, have had broad and multifaceted impacts on the structure and functioning of the system. These effects can be analyzed in several key dimensions:

1. **Alignment with International Standards and Legal Reforms:** Legal reforms in Iran aimed at harmonizing with international human rights standards and global principles of justice have led to significant amendments in criminal, civil, and procedural laws. For example, the adoption of the new Criminal Procedure Code in Iran, designed to enhance transparency and fairness in criminal trials, has been specifically aligned with international standards. These reforms include facilitating access to defense attorneys, guaranteeing the rights of the accused, and improving procedural mechanisms. Amendments in laws combating money laundering and financing of terrorism were also made to comply with global FATF standards.
2. **Impact on Judicial Procedures:** Legal changes have directly influenced judicial procedures and court practices. Particularly, engagement with international jurisdictional standards has required Iranian domestic courts to operate in accordance with global principles and procedures. For instance, courts are now obligated to uphold fair trial guarantees and respect human rights in cases related to international jurisdiction. These changes have led to the development and enhancement of judicial practices aimed at improving justice processes and human rights protection.
3. **Effect on Law Enforcement:** Legal reforms have also affected how laws are enforced and monitored. For example, increased international oversight and the requirement for judicial performance reporting in human rights matters have



posed new challenges for domestic supervisory bodies. This has created a need to strengthen internal monitoring and auditing mechanisms within Iran's judicial institutions.

4. **Social and Cultural Impacts:** Legal changes have also influenced social and cultural aspects of society. The acceptance of international standards within the judicial system can shift public attitudes toward justice and human rights and increase legal awareness among the general population (Hakimiha & Ziaei, 2013).

## 8. Interaction with the International Criminal Court (ICC)

This section examines the judicial interactions between Iran's domestic judicial system and the ICC, analyzing how these interactions have influenced domestic judicial procedures and processes. Judicial interactions include mechanisms of cooperation, information exchange, and coordination in enforcing judgments and extraditing accused persons. Such interactions can enhance the efficiency of the domestic judicial system and align it with international standards.

### Review of Judicial Interactions

Judicial interactions between Iran's judiciary and the ICC consist of various legal and practical exchanges that result in mutual impacts on international criminal proceedings. These interactions manifest particularly in legal, operational, and enforcement aspects, significantly affecting the functioning and administration of justice in Iran.

1. **Mechanisms of Cooperation and Information Exchange:** The ICC cooperates with Iran's judiciary through different mechanisms including exchanging information and evidence, coordinating investigations and trials, and mutual requests for assistance. These mechanisms are especially important in gathering evidence and information for specific cases such as war crimes and crimes against humanity. A key aspect of this interaction is the ICC's requests for access to documents and case-related information, coordinated through Iran's judicial authorities.
2. **Extradition of Accused and Enforcement of Judgments:** One critical issue in judicial interactions with the ICC concerns the extradition of suspects and enforcement of ICC rulings. According to international law and bilateral agreements, states are obligated to cooperate in extraditing individuals accused of international crimes. The ICC may request Iran to extradite suspects, which requires alignment with Iran's domestic laws and implementation arrangements. Extradition and enforcement processes necessitate precise coordination and close cooperation between the ICC and Iranian judicial authorities to ensure the principles of international justice and respect for the rights of the accused are upheld.
3. **Training and Capacity Building:** The ICC, as an international institution, plays an important role in building capacity and training judges, defense attorneys, and other legal professionals in various countries, including Iran. Through workshops, seminars, and specialized courses, the ICC enhances knowledge and skills related to international trials. These trainings typically focus on ICC procedures, evidence analysis, and managing complex international cases. Strengthening such capacities improves the quality of domestic trials and increases coordination between national and international judicial systems.
4. **Impact on Domestic Judicial Procedures:** Interactions with the ICC can have significant impacts on domestic judicial procedures. Notably, these interactions may lead to updates in trial processes, changes in legal frameworks, and improvements in human rights standards. For example, greater transparency in judicial processes and reinforcing principles of justice and defendants' rights can be positive outcomes of these interactions. Moreover, experiences gained through cooperation with the ICC can contribute to the development of domestic judicial procedures and enhance the quality of justice at the national level (Rastad & Hadadi, 2017).

### 8.1. Impacts on Iran's International Relations

This section examines the effects of international jurisdictions on Iran's international relations. These impacts are not limited to the formulation and implementation of domestic policies but extend deeply into Iran's interactions and relationships with other countries and international organizations. A detailed analysis includes how Iran's foreign policies have been shaped and altered under international pressures and obligations, as well as the diplomatic consequences arising from these interactions. The focus is particularly on international engagements and their effects on Iran's diplomacy.

### Analysis of International Interactions

Iran's international interactions over recent decades have been significantly influenced by extensive judicial and legal issues, especially related to international jurisdictions and global laws. These interactions are evident in Iran's global and regional diplomatic relations. The influence of international jurisdictions on Iran's foreign relations is profound and complex. This influence is observable in Iran's dealings with international organizations, human rights bodies, and multilateral agreements, playing a critical role in shaping its foreign policy.

1. **Interactions with International Organizations:** In recent years, Iran has engaged extensively with international organizations, notably the United Nations and its subsidiary bodies. These interactions, especially in the field of human rights, have had considerable impacts on Iran's domestic policies and laws. Iran periodically submits reports to the UN Human Rights Commission, which include evaluations of human rights conditions and implementation of the Commission's recommendations. Engagements with the International Criminal Court (ICC) have also contributed to greater alignment of Iran's domestic laws with international standards.
2. **Multilateral Agreements and Their Impacts:** The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) or the Iran nuclear deal is a prominent example of how international jurisdictions affect Iran's international relations. This agreement, aimed at limiting Iran's nuclear program and easing sanctions, has brought significant changes in Iran's global relations. The JCPOA increased international oversight of Iran's nuclear facilities and improved Iran's economic and diplomatic relations with other countries.
3. **Interactions with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society:** Iran has experienced considerable impacts from engagement with international NGOs in the fields of human rights and sustainable development. These organizations assess Iran's human rights and development situation and provide recommendations for improvements. Cooperation with organizations active in women's and children's rights, particularly in education and social sectors, has led to notable policy changes within Iran. Additionally, interactions with institutions like the International Committee of the Red Cross have enhanced humanitarian cooperation and reforms in refugee and migrant policies (Biramond et al., 2011).

#### Analysis of Impacts on Diplomacy

1. **Impacts of International Interactions on Iran's Diplomacy:** Iran's international engagements with global institutions and multilateral agreements have had extensive effects on its diplomacy. These impacts are particularly significant in economic, political, and military spheres, substantially influencing Iran's diplomatic strategies.
2. **Strengthening or Weakening Diplomatic Relations:** International agreements and interactions with global bodies can either strengthen or weaken Iran's diplomatic ties with various countries. For example, the JCPOA (nuclear deal) enabled Iran to bolster relations with European and Asian countries and gain access to international markets. This improvement fostered enhanced economic and political relations and opened new opportunities for bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Conversely, international sanctions and political pressures resulting from human rights violations and other global issues can reduce diplomatic relations and heighten international tensions. For instance, failure to comply with international human rights obligations and breaches of international law can lead to new sanctions and diminished diplomatic cooperation with key countries.

#### 8.2. *Impact on Foreign Policy*

International jurisdictions' effects on Iran's diplomacy also directly influence the country's foreign policies. Particularly, engagement with international institutions and acceptance of global standards may lead to shifts in Iran's political and diplomatic approaches. For example, adherence to international human rights norms and laws might result in changes to Iran's foreign policy and adoption of new approaches in dealings with other nations. International interactions and global obligations may prompt adjustments in Iran's diplomatic strategies. To align with international requirements and improve diplomatic relations, Iran might pursue new strategies, including adopting new agreements, increasing international cooperation, and modifying foreign policies to enhance the country's international image. Such strategic changes can lead to better relations with other states, increased international credibility, and elevated diplomatic standing globally (Fallahian, 2006).



### 8.3. *Impacts on Human Rights in Iran*

**Analysis of the Human Rights Situation:** Analyzing the human rights situation in Iran requires examining the alignment of domestic laws with international standards, especially international covenants such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). This review includes legal reforms, changes in executive procedures, and international monitoring. As a signatory to these covenants, Iran is obligated to adjust its laws and internal policies according to international human rights principles. These reforms have been made in areas including human rights, women's rights, minority rights, and the rights of the accused. For example, the enactment of the "Family Protection" law and the "Prevention of Violence Against Women" law reflect Iran's efforts to harmonize with international standards. Additionally, international reports from organizations such as Amnesty International and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights have evaluated the human rights situation in Iran, highlighting violations concerning minorities' rights, civil liberties, and prison conditions ([Faramarzi Babadi, 2016](#)).

**Review of Specific Cases:** In examining specific human rights issues in Iran, the focus is on particular topics and international concerns that manifest in certain areas of human rights such as minority rights, civil liberties, and the rights of the accused. One important issue in this context is the situation of ethnic and religious minorities' rights, which is influenced by international interactions and global monitoring. For example, the human rights conditions of ethnic minorities such as Kurds, Baha'is, and Ahwazi Arabs in Iran have received special attention. International reports indicate that these groups face challenges regarding their rights. For instance, Baha'is experience serious restrictions due to their religion, facing discrimination in various areas including education and employment. Additionally, Kurds face severe limitations on their cultural and political rights due to political and security issues. Issues related to civil and political freedoms are also significant in this analysis. Freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, and the right to peaceful protest are among the rights continuously scrutinized in Iran. Violations of these rights, including restrictions imposed on the media, journalists, and human rights activists, are key topics in international reports. In particular, arrests and detentions without trial and alleged torture in detention centers are serious concerns in this area ([Mirmohammadi, 2009](#)).

## 9. Conclusion

The International Criminal Court (ICC) plays a crucial role in addressing international crimes such as war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, and there is now hope that domestic courts can also prosecute the crime of aggression. Aggression, defined as the unlawful use of military force by one state against another, is considered one of the most complex international crimes. Developments in international law have shown that it is possible to investigate and prosecute this crime within both international and national institutions. The ICC is among the formal bodies vested with jurisdiction over this crime. For domestic courts to handle such cases, national laws must be aligned with international obligations. Countries need to update their national legislation and enhance the capacity of their judicial institutions to handle such cases effectively. Successful implementation of this approach would reduce pressure on international bodies and allow cases to be resolved at the national level. This approach can strengthen international cooperation and advance the enforcement of global justice.

International jurisdictions have had extensive impacts on Iran's judicial system, including fundamental legal reforms in criminal, civil, and procedural laws to comply with global standards and international commitments. These changes are especially evident in the fields of human rights and criminal justice, resulting in the removal or mitigation of punishments violating human rights and the expansion of defendants' rights, thereby improving judicial processes. Legal reforms include ratification of international treaties such as human rights covenants and updates to criminal and procedural laws. Interaction with the ICC has also significantly influenced case handling and information exchange. Beyond internal changes, the influence of international jurisdictions on Iran's foreign relations is notable. These interactions have either strengthened or weakened diplomatic ties, and Iran's foreign policies have been shaped by international obligations. Notable impacts include Iran's acceptance of the JCPOA (the nuclear deal) and extensive cooperation with international organizations. In the realm of human rights, Iran has implemented legal reforms related to women's rights, minority rights, and defendants' rights, though international reports continue to highlight violations of human rights, freedom of expression, and minority rights in Iran.

### Recommendations

- It is recommended that Iran align its domestic judicial structures and procedures with the principles and practices of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to improve coordination. This may include reviewing and amending criminal and procedural laws.
- Policymakers in Iran are encouraged to draft and implement new laws consistent with international standards to ensure full compliance with international obligations.
- Iran should enhance the training and specialization of judges and lawyers in the field of international criminal law to improve the quality of handling international cases.
- To strengthen international cooperation, Iran should adopt specific policies for engagement with international organizations and human rights bodies.
- Special attention should be given to developing and reinforcing modern information systems and technologies to effectively investigate and prosecute international crimes.
- A set of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms should be established to assess the conformity of Iran's domestic processes with international standards.
- Extensive research should be conducted on the impacts of domestic laws on the enforcement of international justice in Iran to identify strengths and weaknesses.
- Iran is advised to implement reform and enhancement projects in human rights and criminal justice based on feedback from the ICC.
- Efforts should be made to formulate and execute long-term strategies aimed at improving and elevating Iran's position within the international criminal law framework.
- The experiences and recommendations of countries successful in cooperating with the ICC should be regularly reviewed and incorporated.
- Public awareness about international criminal law and its impacts on domestic and foreign policies should be increased through media and educational programs.
- Iran should leverage the experiences and successes of the ICC in developing and implementing its internal policies to achieve greater alignment with international standards.

## **Ethical Considerations**

All procedures performed in this study were under the ethical standards.

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## **Conflict of Interest**

The authors report no conflict of interest.

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