

committed outside the United States by, among others, persons who served with the armed forces but who are no longer subject to military prosecution. He was sentenced to life in prison.

For additional information on these and other cases see <https://www.justice.gov/criminal-hrsp/hrsp-press-room/2020>

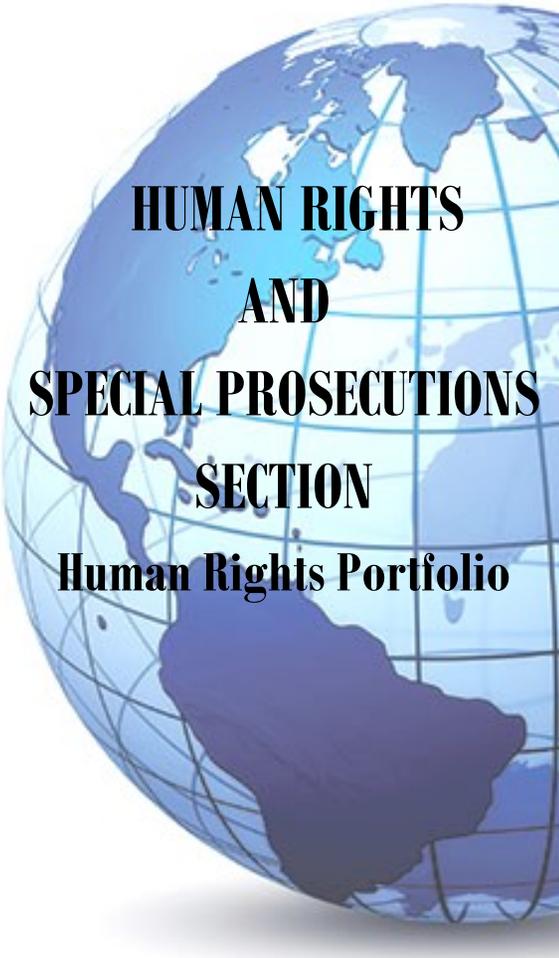
### EXAMPLES OF USAO HUMAN RIGHTS PROSECUTIONS

United States Attorney's Offices (USAOs) across the country also bring human rights cases, and HRSP may provide support. Examples include:

- In 2018, Mohammed Jabbateh, a/k/a "Jungle Jabbah," was sentenced to 30 years imprisonment for failing to disclose his participation in atrocities during Liberia's civil war. Jabbateh's acts of brutality included murder, rape, slave labor, and cannibalism. USAO for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.
- In 2013, Kefelegan Alemu Worku was sentenced to 22 years imprisonment for lying to U.S. immigration and naturalization officials about his participation in the torture and murder of civilians during Ethiopia's Red Terror. USAO for the District of Colorado.



## U.S. Department of Justice Criminal Division



# HUMAN RIGHTS AND SPECIAL PROSECUTIONS SECTION Human Rights Portfolio

## BACKGROUND

The Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section (HRSP), part of the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), identifies, investigates, and prosecutes individuals who engaged in genocide, torture, war crimes, recruitment or use of child soldiers, female genital mutilation, and other serious human rights violations. HRSP also prosecutes perpetrators of other international violent crimes, particularly those involving U.S. government employees and contractors overseas, and members of international criminal networks who seek to evade immigration laws by smuggling persons into the United States. HRSP prosecutes cases both independently and together with the 94 U.S. Attorney's offices (USAOs) throughout the U.S.

## HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

HRSP's work is part of a coordinated, interagency effort to deny safe haven in the U.S. to human rights violators. HRSP's attorneys and historians work closely with DHS's Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Department of State, among other agencies, to pursue accountability for human rights violators in a variety of ways:

- developing cases for prosecution in conjunction with prosecutors and law enforcement officials in the U.S. and abroad;
- working on human rights enforcement legislation, regulations, and other policy matters; and
- participating in interagency efforts such as implementation of the Global Magnitsky Act, which targets human rights violators and other corrupt actors for sanctions; and
- partnering with government agencies and NGOs to prevent the female genital mutilation of girls.

## EXAMPLES OF HRSP'S HUMAN RIGHTS PROSECUTIONS

HRSP's human rights prosecutions use all available tools, including prosecution for immigration and naturalization fraud arising out of efforts to hide involvement in such crimes, and span a variety of human rights abuses, such as those highlighted below:

### Torture

- The 2009 prosecution of Roy M. Belfast Jr, a/k/a/ Chuckie Taylor, the American son of former Liberian President Charles Taylor who commanded a Liberian security force that tortured civilians, was the first use of the federal torture statute. He was convicted and sentenced to 97 years in prison.
- In 2012, Sulejman Mujagic, a Bosnian platoon commander, was indicted for physical and mental torture committed during the Bosnian conflicts of the 1990s. Because Bosnia requested Mujagic's extradition for torture and murder, U.S. charges were dismissed so that Mujagic could be prosecuted in Bosnia, where he was subsequently convicted of war crimes.

### Immigration and Naturalization Fraud

- Bosnian Cases: Between 1992 and 1995, armed members of military, paramilitary, and police units operating throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina committed a vast number of human rights violations. To date, HRSP has prosecuted multiple former members of these units, who participated in atrocities and failed to disclose their wartime service or involvement in violence when applying for citizenship or immigration benefits. Penalties ranged from 12 to 57 months in prison to denaturalization and voluntary departure from the U.S. The Bosnian cases were investigated and prosecuted by HRSP, HSI, and

USAOs in the District of Minnesota, the Middle District of Florida, the Northern District of Georgia, the District of Vermont, the District of Oregon, the Western District of Michigan and the Western District of North Carolina.

### Dos Erres, Guatemala cases:

- In 1982, members of a special forces unit massacred at least 162 unarmed civilians in the village of Dos Erres. HRSP and HSI later identified 5 former members of the unit in the U.S. Two were removed to Guatemala and 3 were prosecuted for immigration and naturalization fraud for failing to disclose their involvement in the atrocities. Investigations and prosecutions by HRSP, HSI, and USAOs in the Southern District of Florida, the Central District of California, and the District of Maryland resulted in sentences from 11 ½ months to 10 years in prison.

### Removal of Nazi Labor Camp Guard

- In 2018, Jakiw Palij was removed to Germany, following investigation and litigation by one of HRSP's predecessor units, the Office of Special Investigations, and years of follow-up efforts by HRSP. Palij's citizenship was revoked in 2003 and he was ordered removed from the U.S. in 2004 on the basis of his service during WWII at the SS slave labor camp at Trawniki, in German-occupied Poland.

### MEJA Prosecution of Former Army Soldier

- In 2006, then U.S. Army soldier Steven Green raped and killed an Iraqi girl and murdered her parents and sister. Green was later tried under the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act (MEJA) which gives U.S. courts jurisdiction to prosecute crimes