

# Assessing Fairness and Rigor of Post-Regime Change Trials

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## Introduction

- After a change in regime often comes investigations into human rights violations committed by the previous regime
- As a result, individual members are prosecuted and brought to trial for their abuses

## Research Aim

- To assess the fairness and rigor of post regime-change trials

## Job of Research Assistants

- Research cases/states, focusing on details of prosecutions based on the parameters of the Codebook
- Make informed assertions on fairness and rigor of prosecutions
- Write summaries on the findings of each case

## Methods and Variables

### Types of Assertions

- Credible Experts - specific evaluations about prosecutions, incl. Prestigious NGOs, some government orgs., and certain individual scholars
- Others - claims on specific events or behavior observed during prosecutions, incl. Credible media orgs.

### Coding and Tags

- The Codebook ascribes possible findings a 'tag' or a numerical value to determine relation to impartiality vs rigor and the strength of the finding
  - Ex:

Impartiality	Flawed	Civilians are prosecuted in military tribunals.	Strong	-3
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### Variables

Table 1: Variable List

Name	Label	Type	Description
regime_name	Regime name	Nominal	Unique case identifier taken mainly from GWF.
regime_id	Regime code	Numeric	Unique case identifier (numeric version).
country_name	Country name (V-Dem)	Nominal	Name of location country, taken from V-Dem.
country_id	Country code (V-Dem)	Numeric	Code for location country, taken from V-Dem.
cov_code	Country code (COW)	Numeric	Code for location country, taken from Correlates of War.
trial_any	Any trials conducted	Binary	Indicates whether any transitional prosecutions occurred within a case.
onset_year	Trial onset year	Numeric	Gives calendar-year in which prosecutions began.
trial_quality	Trial quality	Categorical (string)	When prosecutions are conducted, indicates whether prosecutions were 'Free and fair' or 'Flawed'.
trial_ff	Free and fair trials	Binary	Indicates whether prosecutions were generally free and fair ('1') or other flawed or absent ('0').
trial_flaw	Flawed trials	Binary	Indicates whether prosecutions were generally flawed ('1') or either free and fair or absent ('0').
trial_rigor	Rigorous trials	Binary	When prosecutions are conducted, indicates whether they were based on rigorous evidence-gathering ('1') or not ('0').
trial_impartial	Impartial trials	Binary	When prosecutions are conducted, indicates whether they were based on impartial adjudication ('1') or not ('0').
provisional	Preceding provisional regime	Nominal	When prosecutions are inherited from a preceding 'provisional' regime, gives the name of that provisional regime.

## Findings

Case	Tag	Title	Author	Organization/publish Year	Month	Day	Fair UR Rigor	Impartiality
Albania 91-NA	-4	Amnesty International Annual Report 2000	Amnesty International	1994	January	1		very likely not very likely not
Albania 91-NA	-11	Amnesty International Annual Report 2000	Amnesty International	1995	June	30		very likely not very likely not
Albania 91-NA	-13	Amnesty International Annual Report 2000	Amnesty International	1995	June	30		very likely not very likely not
Albania 91-NA	-7	Amnesty International Annual Report 2000	Amnesty International	1995	June	30		very likely not very likely not
Albania 91-NA	-1	Amnesty International Annual Report 2000	Amnesty International	1995	June	30		very likely not very likely not
Albania 91-NA	-12	Albania: A call for the release of p	Amnesty International	1996	November	27		very likely not very likely not
Albania 91-NA	-9	Albania: A call for the release of p	Amnesty International	1996	November	27		very likely not very likely not

Case	Tag	Title	Author	Organization/publish Year	Month	Day	UR Rigor	Impart
Congo/Zaire 97-N	-1	Amnesty International Report 2000	Amnesty International	2007	May	23		likely likely
Congo/Zaire 97-N	-3	Amnesty International Report 2000	Amnesty International	2007	May	23		likely likely
Congo/Zaire 97-N	-7	Amnesty International Report 2000	Amnesty International	2007	May	23		likely likely
Congo/Zaire 97-N	-6	Amnesty International Annual Report 2000	Amnesty International	2006	May	22		likely likely
Congo/Zaire 97-N	-5	Amnesty International Annual Report 2000	Amnesty International	2006	May	22		likely likely
Congo/Zaire 97-N	-13	Amnesty International Annual Report 2000	Amnesty International	2006	May	22		likely likely
Congo/Zaire 97-N	-3	Amnesty International Annual Report 2000	Amnesty International	2006	May	22		likely likely
Congo/Zaire 97-N	-1	Amnesty International Report 2000	Amnesty International	2006	May	28		likely likely
Congo/Zaire 97-N	-3	Amnesty International Report 2000	Amnesty International	2008	May	28		likely likely
Congo/Zaire 97-N	1	Amnesty International Annual Report 2000	Amnesty International	2013	May	23		likely likely
Congo/Zaire 97-N	2	Amnesty International Annual Report 2000	Amnesty International	2013	May	23		likely likely
Congo/Zaire 97-N	4	Amnesty International Annual Report 2000	Amnesty International	2013	May	23		likely likely
Congo/Zaire 97-N	1	Democratic Republic of the Cong International Criminal Court						likely likely
Congo/Zaire 97-N	2	Democratic Republic of the Cong International Criminal Court						likely likely
Congo/Zaire 97-N	4	Democratic Republic of the Cong International Criminal Court						likely likely
Congo/Zaire 97-N	5	Democratic Republic of the Cong International Criminal Court						likely likely

## Conclusion

- An improvement on previous datasets
- Personal interest in research