



SCHOOL OF LAW

NLLB532: INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW

END OF FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS

NOVEMBER 2025

LECTURER: DR LK MASEKESA

DURATION: 3 HRS

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

1. Write legibly.
2. Answer **three** questions - **Question 1 is compulsory**.
3. This exam carries a total of **100 Marks**.
4. Refer to **RELEVANT** authorities to support your answers.
5. You may start with any question.

SECTION A

THIS SECTION IS COMPULSORY

Question 1

The people of Bemba recently participated in a general election that was severely disrupted by opposition parties. The contested election results led to widespread demonstrations and an unprecedented civil war. In response, the opposition mobilized their supporters for nationwide protests against the government led by President Uriah, who secured a controversial third term in office. To maintain his grip on power, President Uriah ordered ruthless military and police operations to disperse the protesters approaching the Presidential Palace. The joint police and military efforts were perceived as targeting opposition supporters, and high-ranking government officials expressed solidarity with the president by unleashing pro-government militias to quell dissent. These militias were given firm instructions to brutally suppress political opposition, resulting in thousands of civilian deaths and significant property damage, as documented by various human rights watchdogs in Bemba. Estimates indicate that over 10,000 civilian lives were lost, and property worth billions of dollars was destroyed. Leaked videos from a cabinet meeting revealed President Uriah asserting that the opposition was powerless and claiming that Bemba's non-signatory status to the Rome Statute placed it outside the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

In light of these events, the Coalition of Human Rights Watchdogs in Bemba plans to file a complaint with the ICC's Office of the Prosecutor, seeking justice for those responsible for the post-election violence. The Coalition has approached you to serve as their lead counsel. Advise them on the following international criminal law issues arising from this situation:

- (a) ICC jurisdiction; and **[25 marks]**
- (b) Core international crimes committed **[25 marks]**

SECTION B: ANSWER ANY TWO QUESTIONS FROM THIS SECTION

Question 2

With reference to authority, discuss treaty law and customary international law as sources of International Criminal Law. Determine the applicability of these sources in the context of Zimbabwe. **[25 Marks]**

Question 3

Discuss the contribution of the Nuremberg Trials to the development of international criminal law. [25 Marks]

Question 4

Circumstances can sometimes arise that either justify criminal conduct, or excuse the perpetrator for engaging in it. Discuss. [25 Marks]

END OF EXAMINATION