

Investigation and Prosecution of International Crimes

27th November, 2025. Proviantssalen, Christiansborg

09.00 - 09.10	Welcome: Rasmus Grue Christensen, CEO DIGNITY and Karina Lorentzen Dehnhardt, member of the Danish Parliament (spokesperson on legal affairs for Green-Left)
09.10 - 09.30	How to ensure effective implementation of the new legislation? Mette Lyster Knudsen, high court judge and chair of the Judges' Association in Denmark
09.30 - 09.50	Investigation and prosecution of international crimes in Norway: Espen H. Hanken, police prosecutor, International Crimes Section, KRIPOS
09.50 - 10.10	Practice and experience from Sweden: Anna Andersson, researcher in international law at The Swedish Defense Research Agency
10.10 - 10.30	Interview with Nouran Alghamian , joint plaintiff at the al-Khatib trial
10.30 - 10.40	Break
10.40 - 11.00	Investigation and prosecution of international crimes in the Netherlands: Vera Padberg, public prosecutor at Netherlands Public Prosecution Service
11.00 - 11.20	Practice and experience from Germany: Andreas Schüller, co-director of the International Crimes and Accountability program ECCHR
11.20 - 11.40	International cooperation on investigation and prosecution: Matevž Pezdirc, Head of the EU Genocide Prosecution Network
11.45 - 12.00	Peter Hummelgaard , Minister of Justice, Social Democratic Party
12.00 - 12.10	Karina Lorentzen Dehnhardt , Member of the Danish Parliament
12.10 - 12.40	Lunch
12.40 - 13.10	Role of civil society: Therese Rytter, Director, Prevention & Accountability Dept. DIGNITY, Vice President of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Andrea Huber, Head of the International Accountability Platform for Belarus
13.10 - 13.50	Panel discussion: Christian Jakobsen, Police inspector at the Danish National Special Crime Unit (NSK), Mette Lyster Knudsen, high court judge and Eddie Khawaja, attorney at law
13.50 - 14.00	Conclusion and Next Steps: Rasmus Grue Christensen, CEO DIGNITY

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In 2024, the Danish Parliament adopted a historic chapter in the Danish Criminal Code. All international crimes (genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and torture) are now criminalized under Danish law.

The legislative amendment enables the Danish authorities to:

- Actively contribute to investigations of international crimes, including by initiating cases and collecting witness statements from victims and others in Denmark, and sharing this evidence with international partners
- Prosecute perpetrators of torture and war crimes who are present in Denmark
- Convict individuals for international crimes regardless of where the crimes were committed, as long as the perpetrator is present in Denmark

Denmark now has the legal framework needed to play an active role in the international fight against impunity.

However, legislation alone does not create justice. Turning the law into a practical tool for investigating international crimes requires resources, clear structures, and close cooperation across authorities and civil society.

We are working to ensure that Denmark now takes the next step - from adoption to implementation. This includes:

- Increased resources for the National Unit for Special Crime (NSK) and a clear strategy with targets for the investigation of international crimes
- Sufficient resources for the police and prosecution service so that cases can be prioritised and handled efficiently
- A focus on victims and individuals in Denmark who possess knowledge that may be relevant to investigations of international crimes committed elsewhere – including outreach efforts and close cooperation with the asylum authorities
- Prioritisation of cases where the alleged perpetrator is present in Denmark
- Strengthened cooperation with existing units in other European countries

Experiences from the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and Germany show that it is possible. With targeted investments and cooperation, Denmark can respond effectively to international crimes in order to protect victims, strengthen the rule of law, and contribute to the fight against impunity.