



PERMANENT MISSION OF FINLAND  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK

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## VERBAL NOTE

The Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations presents their compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to the note LA/COD/59/2 of 18 December 2015, have the honor to submit the following information on the scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction in the Finnish legal system pursuant to paragraph 3 of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/512 of 14 December 2015

The information that was submitted in 2010 regarding the Finnish Criminal Code is still valid. As an update we would like to add that the following change has subsequently been made to Decree on the implementation of Article 7 of Chapter 1 the Criminal Code infringement of the prohibition of anti-personal mines, as defined in the Convention on the Prohibition on the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personal Mines and on their Destruction, has been added to point 13 b (international crimes)

In order for the Finnish courts to base their competence on universal jurisdiction, they need to ascertain that the pre-court stage as well as the court proceedings, are capable of being completed in Finland and that there would not be more substantial grounds to handle the case in another state

Majority of the cases where universal jurisdiction has been applied have been in connection with crimes relating to narcotic substances. Other types of crimes, where universal jurisdiction has been applied are war crimes (Chapter 11 of the Criminal Code), terrorist crimes (Chapter 34 a of the Criminal Code) and aggravated trafficking in human beings (Article 3a of Chapter 25 of the Criminal Code). Only a few judgements have so far been delivered relating to these crimes, but at the moment there are 12 cases in the pre-trial stage

Regarding the first case tried by Finnish courts under the principle of universal jurisdiction, we would like to add to the information that was provided in 2010 and 2012 that the case has proceeded through the district court and the court of appeal and is now final. The court of appeal gave its judgment on 30 March 2012, upholding the district court's decision, where the defendant was found guilty of the crime of genocide in his country of origin. The defendant was sentenced to life imprisonment. The judgment is final as the Supreme Court did not grant leave of appeal to the defendant.

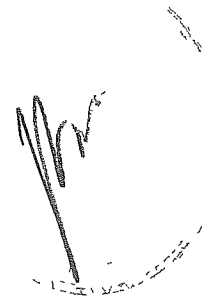
Finally we would like to submit that three judgements for terrorist crimes and war crimes have been delivered recently. The Helsinki Court of Appeal dismissed on 23 March 2016 the charges against four persons sentenced by the district court for financing of terrorism. The judgement is not yet final. The Pirkanmaa District Court on 18 March 2016

and the Kanta-Hame District Court on 8 March 2016 issued suspended prison sentences for war crimes. Both of these judgements are final.

The Permanent Mission of Finland avail themselves of this opportunity to renew the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of their highest consideration.

April 29, 2016

H E Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General of the United Nations  
UNITED NATIONS, 10017 New York

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ban Ki-moon', is written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.