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# Trends. Psychological Discord at the War Crimes Tribunal

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A Bosnian Serb has been sentenced to 40 years in prison for various counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity. He was found not guilty of genocide.

In reading the Associated Press item on the verdicts as published in The New York Times, one might experience psychological discord in reading accounts of the atrocities that were perpetrated. Additional discord might be experienced by the reader who noted the statement that "Judge Jorda said that while Mr. Jelisic 'presents the external signs of a perpetrator of genocide,' prosecutors had not proven that genocide occurred or that Mr. Jelisic had clearly played a role in it." What "external signs" could these be? Measurements of variants of Sheldon's constitutional types? Shifty eyes. Galvanic skin responses? Atrocious grammar? And are there internal signs of genocide that Mr. Jelisic may or may not have met like tachycardia or stimulus-dependent blood-flow changes measured by a plethysmograph? As the War Crimes Tribunal pursues its charge, one hopes that the documentation of atrocity forms the be-all and end-all of signs of genocide and signs of justice. (See Alley, T.R. (Ed.). (1988). *Social and applied aspects of perceiving faces*. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc.; Atwan, R. (1984). *Physiognomy, photography, and prostitution: Cesare Lombroso and the female offender*. *Research Communications in Psychology, Psychiatry, and Behavior*, 9, 353-364; Hochberg, J., & Galper, R.E. (1974). *Attribution of intention as a function of physiognomy*. *Memory and Cognition*, 2, 39-42; War-crimes tribunal sentences Bosnian Serb to a 40-year term. (December 15, 1999). *The New York Times*, p. A5; Wittman, P., Sheldon, W.H., & Katz, C.J. (1948). *A study of the relationship between constitutional variations and fundamental psychotic behavior reactions*. *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, 108, 470-476.) (Keywords: Bosnia, Genocide, Serbia, Tribunal, War Crimes.)