

THE WITNESS EXPERIENCE

This book provides the most comprehensive and scientific assessment to date of what it means to appear before war crimes tribunals. This groundbreaking analysis, conducted with the cooperation of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) Victims and Witnesses Section, examines the positive and negative impacts that testifying has on those who bear witness to the horrors of war, by shedding new light on the process. While most witnesses have positive feelings and believe they have contributed to international justice, there is a small but critical segment of witnesses whose security, health, and well-being are adversely affected after testifying. The witness experience is examined holistically, including witnesses' perceptions of their physical and psychological well-being. Because identity (gender and ethnicity) and war trauma were central to the ICTY's mandate and the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia, the research explores in-depth how they have impacted the most critical stakeholders of any transitional justice mechanism: the witnesses.

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The Witness Experience

TESTIMONY AT THE ICTY AND
ITS IMPACT

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The views expressed in the book are those of the UNT authors alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the International Tribunal or the United Nations in general.

Finally and most importantly, international tribunals depend critically on *all* witnesses to carry out their mandates, and the ICTY is no exception. The brave men and women who have come forward over the last twenty years have given much of themselves in this quest for truth and justice. The study could never have been accomplished without the willingness of the interviewees who gave so generously of their time and voices to share their experiences yet one more time. Their contributions are more than anyone could have ever asked for and exceeded all of our expectations.

It is to *all* the witnesses and their families that this study is dedicated.