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The 20th century has witnessed the rapid proliferation of a variety of international and internationalized criminal courts and tribunals. Their creation has been justified by the international community's resolve to punish perpetrators of the gravest crimes so as to contribute to restoring peace and justice to (post-)conflict regions. However, the specific contours of the relationship between these international courts and tribunals and relevant national accountability mechanisms continue to be the subject of some uncertainty, not least in light of the fact that national courts have increasingly begun to prosecute international crimes. Given the sheer scale of the crimes committed and the limited resources of international judicial institutions, it is crucial that these courts function in parallel with local courts in a pluralistic, integrative system of international criminal law. At the same time, parallel judicial activities are giving rise to an array of complex legal conundrums.

Conceived first and foremost as a case-reduction mechanism, the ICTY and ICTR case referral practice – as part of the UN Security Council Completion Strategy – is a novel experiment in the laboratory of international criminal justice. It illustrates in a highly concrete manner various legal challenges arising from pluralistic accountability mechanisms in the prosecution of international crimes. By analysing the legal problems highlighted by this practice, identifying possible normative and contextual root causes, and formulating potential solutions that may also be relevant for the International Criminal Court (the latter of which is contemplating its own "completion" scenarios), the author sheds light on the shifting dynamic between the main actors involved in the prosecution of international crimes.

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## International Criminal Justice on Trial

The ICTY and ICTR Case Referral Practice  
to National Courts and Its Possible  
Relevance for the ICC

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The Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law in Freiburg is part of the Max Planck Society, an organization dedicated to the advancement of basic research. The Institute is composed of a Department of Criminal Law, led by Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Ulrich Sieber, and a Department of Criminology, headed by Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Hans-Jörg Albrecht. In addition to the study of basic questions of criminal law, comparative law, and criminology, the Institute's research agenda focuses primarily on three central challenges epitomized by the terms "global society," "information society," and "new risk society." As crime becomes more global it makes increasing use of international data networks; through the employment of technology and organization, its consequences for society as a whole – even in seemingly isolated cases – can be significant. Thus, the Institute's current research program encompasses the goals and methods of comparative legal research and legal harmonization, model criminal laws, European criminal law, international criminal law, Internet and information law, money laundering, organized crime, terrorism, crime in post-conflict societies, as well as empirical studies on criminal procedure, alternative methods of crime prevention, reactions to dangerous offenders, and victimology.