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## **SUMMARY**

### **Crimes Committed by Yugoslav Communist Regime - Legal Perspective**

As many as 130,000 people are estimated to have been summarily executed in Slovenia in the months following the end of the Second World War on 8 May 1945. Around 15,000 of those executed were of Slovenian nationality, while others included Croats, Serbs and Germans. More than 620 hidden mass graves have been found in Slovenia thus far.

Massacres in the Slovenian territory after Second World War can be qualified as crimes against humanity.

Slovenian branch of Yugoslav secret police (OZNA) under Yugoslavia's post-war Communist leader, Josip Broz Tito, was responsible for eliminating political opponents under totalitarian regime.

Mitja Ribičič was a deputy head in the Slovenian branch of Yugoslav secret police (OZNA). He was the first former official of Slovenian Communist Party to be charged in Slovenia for crimes against humanity since the end of the totalitarian regime in 1990. Documents found in the Slovene National Archive show that in 1945 Ribičič helped to draft a list of 217 people for execution. Mitja Ribičič worked as a delegate until 1983 in the Slovenian Socialist parliament, in the Yugoslav federal parliament, and was president of the Yugoslav Communist Party from 1969 to 1971.

On 13 May 2005, the Slovenian police filed a criminal charge of genocide against Ribičič for his alleged role in this crimes. This was the first genocide charge in relation to the Yugoslav communist regime's reprisal killings. In April 2006, the prosecution amended the qualification of the criminal act and requested a judicial investigation of acts of "crimes against civilian population" pursuant to Article 374, Paragraph 1 of the Slovenian Criminal Code.