

Principal Trials against Jews for “Ritual Murder” in Central and Eastern Europe

<i>Date</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Accused</i>	<i>Charges</i>	<i>Outcome</i>
1494	Tyrnau/Nagyszombat (Hungary; now Tyrnava, Slovakia)	12 Jewish men and 2 Jewish women	Accused of kidnapping and ritually murdering a Christian boy	All were burned at the stake
1505–1506	Budweis/České Budějovice (Bohemia)	More than 20 Jews		Some burned at the stake; others drowned. Jewish quarter attacked and Jews expelled from the city
1529	Pösing/Bazin (Hungary)	30 Jews, including R. Mosheh ben Ya'akov Kohen and his children	Accused of the ritual murder of a 9-year-old boy. Charges instigated by Ferenc (Francis) Wolf, count of Bazin	All condemned to death and burned at the stake; remaining Jews expelled
1547	Rawa (Poland)	2 Jews, Mojżesz and Abraham	Accused of kidnapping the son of a local tailor and crucifying him	Both burned at the stake; remaining Jews of Rawa expelled
1636	Lublin (Poland)	2 cases heard by the crown tribunal: 1. Bieniasz, son of Pieszak, and Lachman 2. Marek Markowicz (Mordekhai ben Me'ir) and others	1. Charged with the murder of Maciej 2. Accused of performing an operation on Paweł, a lay brother of the Carmelites, in order to acquire his blood	1. Accused refused to confess, even under torture; tribunal made them swear their innocence and released them 2. Markowicz sentenced to death by quartering
1698	Sandomierz (Poland)	Aleksandr Berek	Accused of the ritual murder of 3-year-old Małgorzata Mroczkowicowa	Sentenced to death and executed by decapitation
1710–1713	Sandomierz (Poland)	9 Jews, including R. Jakub Herc, his son Abraham, and son-in-law Jakub Schario	Charged with the ritual murder of a child, Jerzy Krasnowski, whose body was found in the courtyard of the rabbi of Sanomierz. Trial was instigated and organized by Stefan Żuchowski. Jan Serafinowicz, a convert from Judaism, offered testimony at the trial.	Some of the accused, including Rabbi Herc, died during the long investigation. Abraham Herc converted to Christianity and reportedly aided the prosecution; 3 Jews sentenced to death and executed
1736–1740	Poznań (Poland)	Aryeh Leib Kalahora, <i>darshan</i> of the community; Ya'akov Pinkasewicz, and others	Accused of the murder of a Christian child	Kalahora and Pinkasewicz died under torture; eventually Polish king ordered the release of the other prisoners
1747	Zasław/Izyaslav (Poland/Ukraine)	Jewish innkeeper, <i>hazan</i> , <i>mohel</i> , and other community officials	Accused of murdering a Christian who was found buried in the snow	Sentenced to death and executed
1751	Żytomierz/Zhytomyr (Poland/Ukraine)	31 Jewish men and 2 Jewish women	Charged with kidnapping and ritual murder of murder of 3½-year-old Stefan Studzieński. Bishop Kajetan Sołtyk of Kraków played a leading role in the investigation and trial.	Court found the Jews guilty; 11 Jews were executed; some escaped execution after conversion; some who converted had speedier executions
1756	Jampol (Poland)	15 Jews	Accused of killing a Christian boy whose body was found floating in water	Was the occasion for the mission of Elyakim Zeleg to Rome to plea for the intercession of Pope Benedict XIV
1823–1835	Velizh (Russian Empire)	42 members of the community imprisoned and interrogated	Charged with the murder of a 3-year-old boy, the son of a Russian soldier	Surviving Jewish defendants acquitted by Council of State; chief Christian accusers exiled to Siberia

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1853–1860	Saratov (Russian Empire; outside Pale of Settlement)	3 Jews	Accused of the murder of 2 Christian children	Government-appointed investigating commission concluded that guilt had been established, even if motive was unknown
1879	Kutaisi (Russian Empire)	9 Hasidic Jews	Charged with the murder of a young girl	All acquitted
1882–1883	Tiszaeszlár (Hungary)	Salomon Schwarcz, József Scharf, and 11 other Jewish defendants	Charged with the murder of 14-year-old Eszter Solymosi	Defendants proclaimed not guilty
1891–1892	Xanten (Germany) ¹	Adolf Buschhof	Charged with the ritual murder of 5-year-old Johann Hegmann	Acquitted
1899–1900	Polná (Bohemia)	Leopold Hilsner	<i>1st trial:</i> charged with the ritual murder of 19-year-old Anežka Hrůzová <i>2nd trial:</i> charged with sexual murder of Hrůzová and Marie Klímová	Found guilty of murder and sentenced to death in both trials; sentence commuted to life imprisonment; Hilsner pardoned in 1918
1900–1901	Konitz/Chojnice (Prussia; now Poland)	Moritz Lewy	Arrested on suspicion of the ritual murder and dismemberment of Ernst Winter, an 18-year-old student	Convicted on three counts of perjury and sentenced to four years in prison
		Wolf Israelski	Stood trial as an accomplice to Winter's murder	Acquitted
1911–1913	Kiev (Russian Empire)	Mendel Beilis	Accused of ritually murdering a local boy, Andrei Iushchinskii	Acquitted; but in issuing the verdict, the jury allowed for the possibility that a ritual murder had in fact taken place

¹Although Xanten does not lie within Eastern Europe, this trial and others in Germany were closely connected to contemporary events in Hungary, the Czech lands, and Russia.