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Political Assassination Events as a Cross-cultural Form of Alternative Justice¹

Author: [Nachman Ben-Yehuda¹](#)

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Criminals or deviants can be viewed as trying to exercise some form of social control via being involved in deviance. Somewhat differently, the implication is that those deviating from the law or norms are involved in practicing an informal system of justice. This paper explores the meaning of a specific form of a political deviant act—that of political assassinations—and compares it to a form of social control within an alternative system of informal justice. The nature, characterization, type, and mode of informal and alternative justice are examined.

Affiliations: 1: Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Hebrew University, Jerusalem 91905, Israel



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