

Simon Minks



As from 2004 Simon Minks is a (senior) public prosecutor at the court of appeal in the region covered by the Hague Court of Appeal. Minks is specialised in the prosecution of terrorism cases and high profile international (war) crimes. In this capacity he has successfully prosecuted two former Afghan generals, of the then security service.

His most noteworthy prosecution, however, was with the late 2004 arrest, after an international investigation, of the businessman, F van Anraat. At 63, van Anraat had become the first man convicted in connection with alleged war crimes committed against Kurds in Iraq and Iran. Dubbed '*Chemical Frans*', and heading BBC World News articles with '*Saddam's Dutch Link*', van Anraat was accused of directly supplying thousands of tons of base materials for chemical weapons, some of which were allegedly used in the Halabja massacre, killing an estimated 5,000 civilians in a single day.

In 2010 Minks successfully prosecuted seven suspects known as the *Hofstad* group. As members of a terrorist organisation, they were convicted by the court of appeal and sentenced up to 13 years imprisonment. In 2011 Minks successfully prosecuted Trafigura, one of the largest oiltraders in the world. Trafigura exported illegal chemical slops to Ivory Coast. In 2012 he successfully prosecuted Somali pirates and in 2013 a person who wanted to fight in the civil war in Syria. Currently, Minks is handling another criminal case against Somali pirates and a criminal war crime case against Tamil Tigers.

He is a member of the General Board of the Jason Foundation – originally a NAVO youth movement involved in international security issues.

Minks is also vice chair of the Dutch section of the human rights organization ICJ.

In December 2013 he addressed the UN working group "Business and Human rights" in Geneva as speaker/panelist.