

Fall Criminals and their Pursuers

The causes of the Fall were complex and will very likely never be fully understood. However, it is clear that some people and groups did contribute to it. Also, during the Fall while there were clearly some human actions that were praiseworthy (such as the Americans opening the Vandenburg spaceport to everybody) and some that were disgraceful (such as the bombing of the Quito space elevator or the sabotage of the Maghreb farcaster software). Crimes against transhumanity were committed, sometimes out of fear and panic, sometimes just as settling the score with old enemies. Many acts were of unclear morality like the nuking of the Indian moon colonies.

As the direct threat started to abate, many began to look for people to blame. A number of former political, military and scientific leaders were lynched. Most stable polities managed to reign in their irate citizens by promising to pursue the criminals responsible for the Fall and other atrocities.

The Treaty of Uniform Security does contain a clause that allows the extradition of Fall criminals involved with the TITANs, but it does not do much more. In particular, there is no mention of what to do with the merely human atrocities of the Fall, something many think is deeply unjust - but getting the polities of the solar system to sign an updated version is going to be a major uphill battle.

Since the Fall a number of organizations have been set up to investigate the Fall and bring "Fall criminals" to justice.

The most well-known and well funded is the **Planetary Consortium Truth and Reconciliation Commission**. It is formally located under the Planetary Congress and linked to a few surviving UN institutions. It is supported by the PC and many other inner-system fractions, although by no means all: especially the LLA claims it is biased against national states, trying to pin most of the blame for the conflicts leading up to the Fall and especially the construction of the TITANs on national interests. The PCTRC usually responds by pointing at their meticulous, transparent methods and the fairly damning evidence they have already gathered. Other critics think the PCTRC is more interested in showing that it was the fault of the system rather than bringing individual criminals to justice. The Commission does have fairly limited legal powers, but there is little doubt the Consortium would strongly support member action against identified Fall criminals if the PCTRC were to point them out. However, it appears more interested in getting things done right than quickly.

The **Consortium Genocide Commission** is a part of the Consortium security cooperation and does have pretty hefty de facto legal powers (on paper it is just advisory, but it usually does have Oversight's blessing). It is the part of consortium security that deals with major crimes against transhumanity, and it has caught a number of Fall criminals. It is however hampered by some high-level consortium policies of letting bygones be bygones: several times it has been told to step back from investigations that might have led to embarrassing findings about the organizations that were to become consortium members after the Fall. Garden variety monsters,

like Emmanuel Hyved (the man responsible for the corruption of the Maghreb farcasters), are fair game.

The **Fall Justice Foundation** may be the most successful group in hunting Fall criminals. An Extropian foundation, it places bounties on the heads of identified Fall criminals and dispatches ego hunters to get them. It also employs an information market for tips, information and evidence about who ought to get branded criminal: once the evidence reaches a sufficient standard a bounty is put up. The Foundation is supported by a number of inner and outer system hyperelites, companies and NGOs, and does have cordial under-the-table ties with the CGC and Titanian Commonwealth Security. Some have claimed it is a highly sophisticated lynch mob and that it might be better at catching individuals than groups, but the FJF usually responds by pointing out that a sufficiently advanced lynch mob is indistinguishable from justice. The Interplanetary Criminal Court is largely a paper tiger, something vaguely supported by various inner system powers but lacking enough real clout to amount to something. A few solarists, seeking to unify the solar system under a united transhuman government, hope it can eventually grow into something real.

There are a multitude of small networks dedicated to finding the real truth about the Fall and detecting its perpetrators. Many are just venting ordinary paranoia or prejudice, blaming - and attacking - AGIs, the Jews, uplifts, the Chinese or aliens. Some are more sophisticated and can sometimes dig up interesting information. The Argonaut-aligned **Hyperion Group** has mapped pre-Fall events with great precision and is comparing that with the disinformation campaigns waged during and after the Fall to find guilty consciences. Their success has been measured in the amount of spin and memetic attacks that their work has stirred up. **The People's Court Against Fall Crime** is less sophisticated (and downright rude), but tenacious in tracking down especially AI researchers and AGIs with ties (real or imaginary) to the TITANs.

Fall Criminals at large

Dr Fatima Addakhiloputri

Former CEO of Perusahaan Nano Negara, the Indonesian nanotechnology consortium. She, and other executives of PNN, are sought by many for their role of spreading unsafe nanoassemblers in the years before the Fall. While it might be debatable whether any brand of fabber was safe from TITAN attacks, it is clear that the PNN assemblers had particular security flaws that were widely used in the initial netwar and economic attacks. In one particularly glaring incident, systems sold by PNN to Chile erupted military-grade sabotage and assassination devices.

Whether this was due to outside hacking through a weak security interface or using PNN insider information is still being investigated: the PCTRC is very interested in getting their hands on any surviving PNN devices and files for their case. While the case against PNN is largely symbolic and acts as a lightning-rod for the general blame for unsafe assemblers, it is enmeshed in interesting PC politics: on one side Oversight and Nanosys would love to get clear indictments against the use of unsafe and uncontrolled assemblers (the case might be old, but it is good propaganda). On the other side, not a few member nanocorporations have ties back to PNN and similar organizations, and a bunch of PNN engineers have ended up doing very well in Qianjiao and have the local business community's ears.

To make things more problematic, Dr Addakhiloputri currently resides in the Morningstar Constellation (with which the PC does not have any extradition treaty) on Shukra. She has numerous times denied any wrongdoing and has been quite willing to declare her side of the story (mainly that she and the rest of PNN leadership had nothing to do with any security problems, blaming it all on TITANs).

Commander Zhu Gangjian

Commander in the Chinese space fleet, commanding the warship *Hesheng* during the Fall. While he engaged a number of TITAN-controlled defense systems near Earth he also attacked installations and ships from enemy nations, even after the April 26 evacuation order formally ceased hostilities. In particular, he ordered the attacks on ships from the Equatorial Network and the transit habitat Indosat on April 30 that seriously crippled the evacuation of India. In the chaos the act went largely unnoticed, and over the next few weeks commander Gangjian continued to “defend” by attacking ships and habitats he claimed to be infected by TITAN weaponry.

The size of the commander’s actions became clear only when the remnants of the Chinese government and military began to reconstitute themselves at the end of the Fall. At this point he discreetly slipped away. Some claim he did this to deliberately take the blame for what was actually orders from higher-ups. He seems to have gone to the cypher *Dào Yì Yǒu Dào*, and is now believed to hide somewhere in the Belt.

Emmanuel Hyved

Emmanuel Hyved was a network engineer at a Mediterranean telecom. He inserted a denial virus into the Maghreb farcaster network during May AF0, right in the middle of the desperate farcasting of North Africa. The disruption is estimated to have corrupted at least one million egos before it was detected, but also delayed the transmission of several million queued egos – egos that were lost when TITAN forces erupted from the Sahara a short time later. As motivation, Hyved claimed he was “sick of race mixing, arrogant Frenchmen and welfare states”.

While the original person was caught and later killed by a mob, he had egocast a backup ahead. The backup was sent to Mars via the Moon, and in the process lost identity information. Since then a few mistakes has demonstrated that Hyved is alive and living incognito on Mars.

Most profilers agree that Hyved suffers from sociopathic tendencies coupled with a bunch of personality disorders. While he was a skilled network engineer, the fact that he has managed to hide for so long seems unlikely. It is believed by some that he is protected by whoever used him as a catspaw. Others think he has quietly formed his own resistance network that is helping him, and possibly contributes to the conflicts on Mars.

Dr Ivan A. South

A leading pre-fall AGI researcher, working for SAX Infologics. SAX was a major contractor for military information security, AGI and offensive software to several hypercorps and national states. While clearly not the sole originators of TITAN technology they clearly played an

important role in developing such systems, and in the post-Fall blame game SAX has become one of the most despised and iconic “causes” of the fall. Dr South, having been a high-profile and very well-paid AGI researcher at SAX has been painted as “the father of TITANs”.

During the Fall he was evacuated to orbit, and ended up further evacuated by *USS Obama* to Ganymede. He arrived right in the middle of the coup forming the Jovian Republic. His new hosts did not quite realize who he was, and he was drafted into supporting the security infrastructure. He did a good job and was named programmer-sergeant.

At this point the investigations in the inner system uncovered his name and he became a serious embarrassment for the Jovian Republic. Torn between their stated anti-AGI position and the sheer usefulness of having a prime netwar expert on their side, the Junta vacillated. To this day the status of Dr South remains a sore diplomatic point. A criminal investigation for crimes against humanity has been officially opened, yet progress is glacial. The Planetary Consortium is demanding his extradition which the Junta is denying due to the ongoing investigation. Dr South was removed from formal duty but may very likely be doing secret consulting with the republic navy. He is kept incommunicado somewhere, safely away from the public.

Adventure ideas

It is quite possible to run a campaign about trying to bring some Fall criminals to justice - legally or otherwise. There are groups willing to pay, but also groups willing to protect the criminals for all sorts of reasons. They could have surfaced in positions of power or responsibility, may have been granted immunity by major factions, or actually know the *real* story about pre-Fall events best left secret. Some criminals may be in murky moral matters: is choosing one group to survive over another immoral? Was the bombing of New Mumbai done prematurely? If the criminal has tried to atone for what they did, should that be counted? How much evidence for exsurgent activity is needed before you nuke a site from orbit? Getting evidence may also be a major adventure - some of it remains on Earth, or in ruined habitats in Earth orbit. And if the characters are trying to bring a loathsome criminal to real justice, can they protect her from the mobs who want to exact justice here and now? Can there even be real justice for a Fall criminal?

Firewall is naturally interested in Fall criminals, and will monitor what the other groups are digging up. Most of the time it is just quietly cheering them on, since people who can commit one atrocity or unleash one existential risk may do it again. However, sometimes what the criminals know might be more important than bringing them to justice, and sentinels might be sent to save them from justice (and even join Firewall). Agents may be very conflicted about it.

One of the anti-Fall crime groups have found some evidence that points towards Firewall. Maybe it is not any direct atrocity, but just evidence showing past Firewall activity (such as smuggling Promethean seeds, hiding information or building redoubts) - it still needs to be erased.

One of the characters finds himself being hunted as a Fall criminal. A series of weird coincidences have been uncovered that seem to suggest he did something awful during the Fall, and now several groups are after him. Worse, they might be right. This could be particularly fun to run on a character with amnesia, neural damage or modified behavior. Of course, it *could* also be an

elaborate framing job. Maybe that is the only way to stay sane when evidence suggesting that one is responsible for gigadeaths start to build...