



# Obtaining *civil remedies* in criminal cases: the UAE, Switzerland and France – *a summary table*

	UAE	France	Switzerland
 Legal Framework	Civil law system where Federal and Emirate level laws coexist. A separate common law system operates in the DIFC and ADGM free zones, which also have separate courts which apply the specific laws.	Civil law system based on statutes enacted by Parliament. Case law has limited weight compared to statutes.	Civil law system based on statutes enacted by the Parliament, initially influenced by German, French, and Italian legal criminal and civil codes.
 Civil and Criminal Proceedings	Civil claims under Civil Code, criminal matters under Federal Law 31 of 2021 on the Issuance of the Crimes and Penalties Law and Federal Law 34 of 2021 concerning the Fight Against Rumours and Cybercrime. Civil lawsuits can be filed within criminal proceedings and later referred to civil courts.	Criminal proceedings encompass criminal prosecution and civil compensation for harm. Separate civil proceedings possible, but once chosen, cannot revert to criminal proceedings for compensation.	“Adhesive” procedure allows civil claims within criminal proceedings. Separate civil proceedings possible, but once chosen, cannot revert to criminal proceedings for compensation.
 Parallel Proceedings	Civil and criminal claims can be pursued concurrently, but civil claims are typically stayed pending criminal action. Criminal conviction often used to substantiate civil claim.	Victim must choose between joining a civil claim to criminal proceedings or pursuing separate civil proceedings. Decision is irrevocable.	Civil claims can be pursued within criminal proceedings. Criminal investigation can benefit civil claims. Separate civil proceedings may be stayed if they could be influenced by a pending criminal trial.

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 Interim Remedies	<p>Precautionary attachments and travel bans available in onshore courts. DIFC and ADGM courts can issue common law interim measures like freezing orders.</p>	<p>Investigative measures led by an Investigating Judge or the police. Asset freezing, travel ban provisional imprisonment can also be ordered.</p>	<p>Criminal prosecution authorities (prosecutor' office) can issue orders for evidence, asset freezing, travel ban and provisional imprisonment.</p>
 Statute of Limitations	<p>No time limitations for civil actions arising from fraud or bribery offences.</p>	<p>Twenty years for crimes, six years for other offences if joined to criminal proceedings. Five years for separate civil proceedings.</p>	<p>30, 15, 10 or 7 years depending on the nature of the crime. The longer criminal statute of limitations will apply to the civil statute of limitations (of 10 years) if the perpetrator is convicted.</p>