1st degree faminogenic behaviour refers to the use of famines by governments as a deliberate tool of extermination;
2nd degree faminogenic behaviour refers to the pursuit of policies by public authorities which were the principal cause of famine;
3rd degree faminogenic behaviour refers to circumstances where public authorities are indifferent: they may not be the principal cause of famine but do little to alleviate hunger, and
4th degree faminogenic behaviour refers to incapable or incapacitated authorities who, faced with a food crisis, are unable to respond effectively to the needs of the population.