Relevant paragraphs in the Swedish Criminal Code

Chapter 2 – On the jurisdiction of Swedish courts

Section 3

Swedish courts have jurisdiction to adjudicate offences committed outside Sweden in the following situations.

[…]

6. Certain international offences Offences

1. referred to in the Act on Criminal Responsibility for Certain International Offences (2014:406), except for the crime of aggression under Section 11a or attempting, preparation or conspiracy to commit, or failure to disclose or prevent, such an offence;
2. referred to in Chapter 13, Section 5a (hijacking and shipping or aircraft sabotage), or attempting such an offence ;
3. referred to in Chapter 13, Section 5b (airport sabotage), or attempting such an offence;
4. referred to in Chapter 15, Section 4b (making an untrue or careless statement before an international court);
5. referred to in Chapter 16, Section 5 (inciting crime) consisting of an immediate and public call to commit genocide;
6. referred to in the Terrorist Offences Act (2022:666 ), or referred to in another act of law and committed with intent referred to in Section 12 of the Terrorist Offences Act;
7. directed at the administration of justice by the International Criminal Court; or
8. covered by the definition of torture in Article 1 of the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment adopted on 10 December 1984, or attempting such an offence.

Chapter 3 – On offences against life and health

Section 5

A person who inflicts bodily injury, illness or pain on another person or renders them helpless or in some other similar state is guilty of assault and is sentenced to imprisonment for at most two years or, if the offence is minor, to a fine or imprisonment for at most six months.

Section 6

If an offence referred to in Section 5 is considered gross, the person is guilty of gross assault and is sentenced to imprisonment for at least one year and six months and at most six years. When assessing whether the offence is gross, particular consideration is given to whether the act was life threatening or whether the perpetrator inflicted severe bodily injury or serious illness or otherwise displayed particular ruthlessness or brutality.

If the offence is considered exceptionally gross, the person is guilty of exceptionally gross assault and is sentenced to imprisonment for at least five and at most ten years. When assessing whether the offence is exceptionally gross, particular consideration is given to whether the bodily injury is permanent, or whether the act caused exceptional suffering, or whether the perpetrator displayed exceptional ruthlessness.

Chapter 4 – On offences against liberty and peace

Section 1

A person who seizes and carries off or confines a child or some other person with intent to injure them physically or harm their health, or to coerce them into service, or to practise extortion is guilty of kidnapping and is sentenced to imprisonment for a fixed term of at least four and at most eighteen years, or for life.

If the offence is less serious, the sentence is imprisonment for at most six years.

Section 2

A person who, in cases other than those referred to in Section 1 or 1a, carries off or confines a person or deprives them of their liberty in some other way is guilty of unlawful deprivation of liberty and is sentenced to imprisonment for at least one year and at most ten years.

If the offence is less serious, the sentence is a fine or imprisonment for at most two years.

Section 4

A person who, by assault or otherwise by violence or by threat of a criminal act, coerces another person to do, submit to or omit to do something, is guilty of unlawful coercion and is sentenced to a fine or imprisonment for at most two years. A person who exercises coercion with such effect by threatening to bring a prosecution against or report another person for an offence or to give detrimental information about another person is also guilty of unlawful coercion, provided that the coercion is improper.

If the offence is gross, the person is guilty of gross unlawful coercion and is sentenced to imprisonment for at least nine months and at most six years. When assessing whether the offence is gross, particular consideration is given to whether the act:

1. included violence of a serious kind;
2. included a threat that was substantially reinforced with the aid of a weapon, an explosive or a dummy weapon, or by allusion to a capacity for violence, or that was otherwise of a serious kind; or
3. was otherwise of a particularly ruthless or dangerous nature.

Section 5

A person who threatens another person with a criminal act in a manner that is liable to occasion serious fear in the person threatened for the safety of their own or someone else’s person, property, liberty or peace is guilty of making an unlawful threat and is sentenced to a fine or imprisonment for at most one year.

If the offence is gross, the person is guilty of making a gross unlawful threat and is sentenced to imprisonment for at least nine months and at most four years. When assessing whether the offence is gross, particular consideration is given to:

1. whether the threat was substantially reinforced with the aid of a weapon, an explosive or a dummy weapon, or by allusion to a capacity for violence, or was otherwise of a serious kind; or
2. whether the act was otherwise of a particularly ruthless or dangerous nature.

Chapter 6 – On sexual offences

Section 1

A person who performs vaginal, anal or oral intercourse, or some other sexual act that in view of the seriousness of the violation is comparable to sexual intercourse, with a person who is not participating voluntarily is guilty of rape and is sentenced to imprisonment for at least three and at most six years. The same applies to a person who induces another person who is not participating voluntarily to undertake or submit to such an act. When assessing whether participation is voluntary or not, particular consideration is given to whether voluntariness was expressed by word or deed or in some other way. A person can never be considered to be participating voluntarily if:

1. their participation is a result of assault, other violence or a threat of a criminal act, a threat to bring a prosecution against or report another person for an offence, or a threat to give detrimental information about another person;
2. the perpetrator improperly exploits the fact that the person is in a particularly vulnerable situation due to unconsciousness, sleep, gravefear, the influence of alcohol or drugs, illness, bodily injury, mental disturbance or otherwise in view of the circumstances; or
3. the perpetrator induces the person to participate by seriously abusing the person’s position of dependence on the perpetrator.

If the offence is less serious, the sentence is imprisonment for at least sex months and at most four years.

If an offence referred to in the first paragraph is gross, the person is guilty of gross rape and is sentenced to imprisonment for at least five and at most ten years. When assessing whether the offence is gross, particular consideration is given to whether the perpetrator used violence or a threat of a particularly serious nature, or whether more than one person assaulted the victim or took part in the assault in some other way, or whether, in view of the method used or the young age of the victim or otherwise, the perpetrator exhibited particular ruthlessness or brutality.

Chapter 35 – On lapse of sanctions

Section 1

No sanction may be imposed unless the suspect has been remanded in custody or served with notification of prosecution for the offence within:

1. two years, if the offence cannot result in a more severe penalty than imprisonment for one year;
2. five years, if the most severe penalty is more severe, but no more than two years;
3. ten years, if the most severe penalty is more severe, but no more than eight years;
4. fifteen years, if the most severe penalty is imprisonment for a fixed term of more than eight years;
5. twenty-five years, if the offence can result in imprisonment for life.

If an action includes more than one offence, sanctions may be imposed for all of the offences notwithstanding what is stated above, as long as a sanction may be imposed for any one of them.

Section 2

The provisions of this Chapter on lapse of sanctions do not apply to:

1. murder or manslaughter under Chapter 3, Section 1 or 2;
2. rape or gross rape under Chapter 6, Section 1, first or third paragraph, if the offence was committed against a person who had not attained eighteen years of age;
3. rape of a child or gross rape of a child under Chapter 6, Section 4;
4. an offence under Section 2, first or third paragraph of the Act Prohibiting the Genital Mutilation of Women (1982:316), if the offence was committed against a person who had not attained eighteen years of age;
5. genocide, crimes against humanity, gross war crimes or the crime of aggression under Section 1, 2, 11 or 11a of the Act on Criminal Responsibility for Certain International Offences (2014:406);
6. terrorist offences under Section 4 of the Terrorist Offences Act that is not less serious; or
7. attempts to commit offences referred to in point 1, 5 or 6.

However, if a person committed an offence referred to in the first paragraph before attaining eighteen years of age, the provisions on lapse of sanctions in this Chapter apply.