

MATHEW 26:59 SANHEDRIN

*The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. **Mathew 26:59***

Sanhedrin is the ruling body of the nation of Israel, both the governing council and supreme court of the Jews. It had seventy-one members and was presided over by the High Priest. Its membership was made up of the Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes or lawyers, and the elders who were leaders from among the people. A quorum was twenty-three. The legal power of the Sanhedrin to pass the death sentence was restricted about twenty some years before the trial of Jesus. However, they did retain the right of excommunication (see Jn. 9:22). To secure Jesus' death, they were forced by law to appeal to the Romans for the death sentence. □