

**SPECIAL COURT FOR SIERRA LEONE
OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**



“Sunset Storm”. Photographer: Ray Cardinal

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Enclosed are clippings of local and international press on the Special Court and related issues obtained by the Outreach and Public Affairs Office

as at:

Friday, 1 August 2008

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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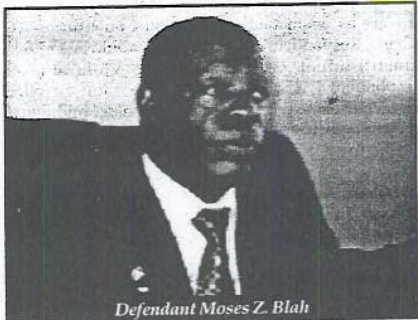
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Plain Truth (Liberia)
Friday, 1 August 2008

RAPP JOINS BLAH'S LEGAL TEAM?

Holds Secret Meeting With Gongloe



Defendant Moses Z. Blah



Special Court Prosecutor Stephen Rapp

The Prosecutor at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, sitting in The Hague, Stephen Rapp is allegedly teaming up with the Solicitor-General, Tiawan Gongloe in a bid to beef up the legal team representing defendant Moses Z. Blah in the ongoing libel suit at Civil Law Court.

Rapp recently arrived in the country a fortnight

ago and on Tuesday proceeded to the Justice Ministry where he held two hours of close-doors meeting with the Solicitor-General at the on how to assist defendant Moses Blah to ward off the libel case against him. Employees at the office of the Solicitor-General according to our source were restricted for hours from getting close to the boss man's office while the

meeting was going on inside.

According to our judicial correspondent, quoting unimpeachable sources at the Justice Ministry, Rapp was quoted as hinting to underwrite the cost of litigation for defendant Blah who said to be in a total state of penury.

The source said Rapp was also expected to hold final discussions with Counselors Yarmie

Quiqui Gbessay, Cooper Kruah and John Nenwon on Wednesday morning, July 31, 2008 at about 9:00 A.M. at their Benson Street, Snapper Hill office before departing the country.

A source who could not confirm nor deny Rapp's gesture to underwrite Blah's legal expenses, confided in this paper that the Prosecutor urged the Solicitor-General to

ensure that the libel suit is dismissed at all cost.

Although Gongloe has not shown up as one of Blah's lawyers, there compelling signals that his unsolicited interest in the case is driven purely by tribal affinity and in

the last few days has been behind the scene directing the defense's legal course.

Moses Blah is Tiawan Gongloe's uncle and both share the misguided argument of 'Congoes ver-

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WILLIAMS' LAWYERS DEMAND BAIL -For Lack Of Evidence

Strengthened by a third autopsy exonerating his clients of any wrongdoing in the alleged controversial death of little Angel Togba, defense lawyer, Counselor Frank Musa Dean, Jr. has filed a motion to admit defendant Hans Williams and his fiancé to bail.

The motion in consonance with Liberian law which states that where



evident is not proof, presumption not great, a criminal defendant is en-

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RAPP JOINS

sus natives', which seems the main reason why the Solicitor-General wants to use his office and power to defend him against any legal action from Benoni Urey.

Insiders at the Justice

Ministry told this paper that Gongloe introduced Blah's legal team and appeared to Rapp to also hold close doors meeting with them.

Mr. Rapp is said to have also held discussions with a number of government officials with deep interest in the judiciary, and there are indicators that he seemed to have gotten some assurances that defendant Blah will triumph.

Blah's lawyers made up of his kinsmen, have been arguing that there is no precedence to try a libel case in Liberia and therefore have been relying on foreign laws from other common law countries as a defense to argue their case.

A source also told our correspondent that some of the unexciting law citations being relied upon by the defense team were provided by Stephen Rapp in a bid to assist defendant Blah get out of trouble.

However, some legal practitioners who spoke to this paper on condition of anonymity said one thing that is certain, is that whether or not an "iron fisted" influence is used, the Civil Law Court will not submit to the folly of the defendant that he is a witness of the Special Court and therefore is not answerable to complaint before a Liberian court.

The practitioners said courts in common law countries do not have witnesses and dismissed as complete nonsense claims by the defendant that he is a witness of the Special Court.

"The court might likely rule that courts in common law countries do not have witnesses and the Special Court being one of them, certainly does not have a witness, a decision that may likely catch Moses Blah pants down", observed one legal practitioner.

Although Rapp has left the country with a promise to return, there is no immediate information as to what the nature of his discussion with the Solicitor-General was.

In a recent press statement attributed to Moses Blah, he claimed the UN was sending a crack legal team with evidence to prove his case against Mr. Urey.

But sources close to the Solicitor-General and Blah's legal team told this paper that Rapp came empty-handed with no evidence to support Blah's claims.

The sources also added

that Kapp was told that no foreigner can practice law in Liberia and whatever evidence he has must be presented through the defense team.

In a related development, the Urey legal team has acquired a notarized statement of fact from an executive official of LISCR denying the collection of maritime funds four years in advance during the administration of former President Taylor.

The documents which is in the possession of the legal team ready to be presented in court as evidence also clarified that the collection of maritime fees is done on a weekly basis and rejected as completely untrue claims that the collection of maritime fees in advance was a common practice during the Taylor administration.

When the Solicitor-General was contacted yesterday by mobile phone, he told our reporter: "I can't comment on anything because I am in Sanniquellie, Nimba County conducting workshop for prosecutors."

However, one of the lead counsels for Moses Blah, Counselor Yarmie Quiqui Gbessay could not be immediately reached by mobile phone up to press time. Investigation continues.

WILLIAMS' LAWYERS

titled to bail as a matter of right.

The prosecution seems ambivalent over which autopsy to rely upon to indict Hans and his fiancé due to the fact that the first two autopsies are contradictory, which necessitated a third autopsy that has now exonerated the lovers in detention.

The third autopsy seemed to have silenced critics who claimed that either Williams or the office of the Solicitor-General had connived to bury what they thought was a complete cold bloody murder of little Angel.

The mortal remains of the late Angel became a public display after some women group openly rejected the first autopsy and demanded the arrest and imprisonment of Hans and his fiancé on murder charges.

The second autopsy was personally commissioned by Justice Minister Philip Banks who perhaps while playing to the public gallery ignored all of the professional findings of the first autopsy and created a sensation that increasingly made Hans and his fiancé look like

serial killers.

Though there were arrested and locked behind bars as demanded by the women group, the third autopsy has revealed that all of the humiliations suffered by the pair were baseless because the report has shown that there was no foul play and that little Angel died by hanging herself on the rope.

In making the motion, the defense questioned the qualification and competence of the author of the second autopsy and maintained that the team commissioned by it had the requisite qualification to do the job.

Ruling in the motion is pending. But whatever the outcome might be one thing that is certain is that the prosecution is again on the verge of losing another major case. Investigation continues.

Plain Truth (Liberia)
Friday, 1 August 2008

MOSES BLAH NOT WITNESS FOR SPECIAL COURT

Contrary to an ill-fated and unexciting argument raised by defendant Moses Z. Blah and his lawyers that he (Blah) is a witness of the Special Court and therefore cannot be held to account for any false and malicious

statement made, it has now been established that courts in common law countries are impartial referees presiding over trials and therefore do not have witnesses.

Highlighting this point in a 20-minute argument presented before the Civil

Law Court presided over by His Honor, Yusif Kaba, Benoni Urey's lawyer, Attorney Sayma Syrenius Cephus said the system of law that is being practiced in common law countries is adversarial, meaning the court sits and hears arguments,

and does not locate or identify witnesses for either of the contending party.

Dismissing claims that Moses Blah is a witness of the Special Court, he said the subpoena ad testificandum issued by the Special Court was based on the prayers of the prosecution to use Moses Blah as one of its witnesses

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BLAH NOT

and therefore, he (Blah) cannot and is not a witness of the Special Court but rather the prosecution.

He said in a common law country using the adversarial system of law as in the case of the Special Court, a presiding judge may issue a subpoena ad testificandum or subpoena ad duce tecum based on the prayers of a moving party as in the case of the prosecution in the Charles Taylor trial.

Expatiating further, Cephus told the court that in the Civil Law countries where the inquisitorial system of law is practiced, a presiding judge conducts an inquest, locates and identifies witnesses for the determination of a cause of action before him but maintained this does not apply in an adversarial system.

The Young Attorney noted that Blah knew or had reason to know that his subpoena by the Special Court was perhaps triggered by the fact the prosecution felt or believed he had an inside knowledge on Charles Taylor alleged war crimes and crimes against Humanity in neighboring Sierra Leone, but chose to make wide and sweeping allegations that Benoni Urey delivered US\$70m to the former Liberian President on the eve of his departure from office and collected four years in advance maritime funds.

He said the alleged deliverance of US\$70m or the so-called collection of maritime funds four years in advance are not part of

the prosecution's indictment against Charles Taylor but was criminally and wickedly made by defendant Moses Z. Blah just to besmear the character of his client.

Telling the court why Blah's action was wicked, deliberate and criminal, and why it is actionable, Cephus dismissed as a complete joke an argument by Blah's lawyers that the Civil Law Court should give recognition to what they termed 'absolute privilege immunity' allegedly accorded the defendant in a purported agreement between the Special Court and the Netherlands as contained in defendant's prayer.

Later in a six-page legal memorandum presented to Judge Kaba, countering and traversing defendant's two-page legal memorandum, Cephus contended that the question of recognition of foreign authorities, bodies and jurisdictions is a political decision, which lies with the purview of a sovereign head of state of this Republic and therefore cannot be performed by a court with such limited powers.

He maintained further that the granting of reprieves, immunities accorded individuals in foreign jurisdictions is not one of the functions and responsibilities of the Civil Law Court at the Temple of Justice.

"Your Honor, the purported 'absolute privilege immunity' agreement referred to, though not displayed or produced, is said to be between the Special Court and the Netherlands, to which Liberia is not a signatory, hence, it is not a bar to any litigation by a Liberian citizen whose character has been ravished by the reckless and irresponsible statement of this defendant", Cephus told the Civil Law Court.

"Statutory courts have their responsibilities and functions to perform consistent with laws creating them, and it would be absolutely ultra vires, if this court were to give credence to a bogus and non-existent agreement", Cephus added.

But in their argument, the team of veteran lawyers led by Cooper Kruah of the Henries Law Firm, contended that though their client made the statement, same was relevant to what the prosecution wanted.

"We are talking about the relevancy of the statement" said Counselor Kruah.

He prays court to grant his client summary judgment on grounds that the defendant was a witness for the Special Court and that any contrary ruling could undermine the court.

But in a point of information and correction to the learned Counselor-At-Law and veteran legal practitioner which was sustained by Judge Kaba, Attorney Cephus reminded his senior colleague to carefully reflect on the adversarial system of law being practiced in common law countries and dismissed as begging the issue claims that Moses Blah was sent for by the Special Court and therefore is its witness.

"Your Honor I want my senior colleague to understand that courts in common law countries do not have witnesses; do not sua sponte (on their own strength) to sent for witnesses unless they are prayed and requested by a moving party to do so", Cephus said.

"Blah is not a witness of the Special Court but rather the prosecution; the court never invited Blah until the prosecution prayed for a subpoena ad testificandum, hence, he is witness for the prosecution and not the court", Cephus further clarified.

Meanwhile, legal memorandums of both parties praying court for Summary Judgment are now before Judge Kaba for careful review and analysis pending the issuance of a notice of assignment by either party for final ruling probably next week. See center spread for Respondent's Urey Resistance to Movant's Motion for Summary Judgment, his Legal Memorandum and Blah's legal memorandum on pages 4 and 5 & 7. Investigation continues.

The News (Liberia)
Tuesday, 29 July 2008

...In Blah's US\$4.5 M Libel Case

...Robert for helping to improve Liberia's

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Court Requests Lawyers For Documented Argument

...In Blah's US\$4.5 M Libel Case

By C Emmanuel Johnson

The Civil Law Court at the Temple of Justice hearing the libel suit against former President Moses Blah has requested movants and respondents lawyers to file a memorandum which contains argument.

Assigned Judge Yusuf Kaba told movants and respondents attorneys that he needed the memorandum which contains argument since the case resumed.

The court said the memorandum containing various arguments should be

submitted by July 29, 2008 for perusal.

Judge Kaba made the request last Friday following argument between the two parties during a summary hearing into the US\$4.5 million libel case.

During arguments, lawyers for Blah said their client's testimony at the Special Court in The Hague does not constitute libel because he (Blah) did not publish anything against the movant (Benoni Urey).

"We think that people should counter-

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Former President Moses Blah



Mr. Benoni Urey

COURT REQUESTS

check information provided by the respondent and should not be held liable for his testimony," Blah's lawyers argued.

Blah's counsels further argued that Mr. Urey should have either sued the court or print media that published the testimonies and not their client as was done in the instant case.

One of counsels for the respondent, Cllr. Yarmie Gbaseibah said the testimony given by Blah can not be sued for because it was relevant to questions posed by the judge in The Hague.

"The judge in one of her questions wanted to know the source of Taylor's funding and at this juncture the respondent, having served as Vice President pointed out the Bureau of Maritime Affairs which was then headed by Mr. Urey," he noted.

He said the testimony provided by Blah was protected as a way of ensuring that he did not lie under oath.

In counter-argument, lawyers for movant (Urey) said the Special Court is a neutral institution, and as such, it can not be held liable for statements made by the defendant.

"He left the issue, and said prior to the departure of former President Taylor to Nigeria, movant Urey dished out USD\$4.5 million of the country's maritime fund to Mr. Taylor," Urey's lawyers claimed.

Urey's lawyers prayed the court to pass a ruling in their favor because the respondent lawyers conceded to claims against their client.

Former President Moses Blah was recently subpoena by the Special Court in The Hague to serve as prosecution witness against Mr. Taylor for his alleged involvement in the Sierra Leonean war.

Mr. Blah testified on May 8, 2008 and accused Mr. Benoni Urey of delivering US\$4.5 million to Mr. Taylor.

He indicated that payment was made through the Ministry of Finance in advance of four years in the amount US\$7 million.

UNMIL Public Information Office Complete Media Summaries 31 July 2008

[The media summaries and press clips do not necessarily represent the views of UNMIL.]

Newspaper Summary

Eleven Armed Robbers Arrested – AK-47 Gun, Valuable Items Retrieved

(The Informer, The News, Heritage, The Monitor)

- The Liberia National Police has arrested 11 persons in connection with acts of armed robbery in Monrovia and Buchanan, Grand Bassa County. According to Police Inspector General Beatrice Munah Sieh, suspects Jacob Johnson, alias T-Stock; Peter Gongeh, alias Dirty Way and Patrick Wah, alias Color Boy, were arrested in connection with an alleged armed robbery at the residence of the Resident Manager of Total Gas Station.
- She said the three suspects on July 29, 2008 took away valuables including a sunny Laptop, one printer, one mobile phone and a digital camera from the home of Total manager, Moussa Guelde.
- The Police boss said after a search operation, the officers were able to retrieve the laptop, a printer along with an AK-47 rifle from the robbers. Inspector General Sieh told reporters that Allison Wowah, alias Gio Boy; Junior Jerry, alias School Face and Bill Tomah, alias Rasta, were also apprehended as suspects in an alleged armed robbery on the ELWA Compound and King Gray Community.
- She said due to police rigorous operation to suppress crimes in Monrovia, criminals are now moving to other counties; especially Grand Bassa where police also arrested additional four suspected armed robbers. "In Buchanan, our men also arrested Mohammed Sheriff, Alexander Telewou, James Selah and Victoria Toe," she pointed out. Police Director indicated that operation "Disrupt and Dismantle" launched recently by the police has gained momentum.

President Sirleaf seeks Renewed Partnership with Legislature ...Urges Cabinet's Compliance

The News, New Democrat, The Informer, The Monitor, Heritage, National Chronicle, The Analyst)

- The media reports that in an address to the Joint Session of the National Legislature yesterday, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf called for a new partnership between the Legislature and her administration. According to President Sirleaf, to fully implement the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS), the three branches of government must work together. The address to the Legislature centred on the Liberia Partnership Forum held in Berlin, Germany.
- The News, The Informer, The Monitor and the National Chronicle newspapers quoted the President as saying that the Berlin forum was a huge success, but stressed that it is left with the country to transform the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) into tangible benefits for the Liberian people.
- Meanwhile, President Sirleaf has urged the Executive to cooperate with the Legislature to address what she called problems emanating from the private and public sector of the country. This directive comes just days after the House cast a "Vote of no Confidence" in three officials of her government.

New National Survey Shows Decline in HIV Prevalence in Liberia

(The Informer, Heritage)

- The Liberian Government in collaboration with development partners Tuesday launched the 2007 demographic and health survey. The Heritage and Informer newspapers quoted the report as saying that two percent of Liberian adults age 15-49 are HIV positive.
- Speaking at the launch, the Director General of LISGIS, Dr. Edward Liberty said low HIV rate was promising but that more needed to be done to increase knowledge and improve behavior in order to maintain or further reduce the current rate. Also speaking, Vice President Joseph Boakai said health challenges remain immense despite the progress made. The survey was conducted last year by LISGIS, the Health Ministry and the National Aids/STI's Control Programme and was funded by the Government, USAID, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNDP.

Radio Summary

Star Radio *(News culled today from website at 8:35 am)*

President Sirleaf Seeks Collaboration With Lawmakers

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)

Vice President Boakai Says Health Challenges Remain Despite Progress

(Also reported on Truth F.M. and ELBC)

Confusion Developing Between Guineans and Liberians at Border Town

- Reports say confusion is gradually developing between Liberians and Guineans at the border in Foya District, Lofa County.
- Correspondents say the misunderstanding followed the discovery of a body believed to be a Guinean national on the Makona River that separates the two countries.
- Correspondents say following the discovery of the body, a group of angry Guineans crossed over to the Liberian side prompting residents to flee the area.

LIGIS Debunks Claim of Under Reporting Results of Population Census

- The Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS), says its attention has been drawn to a misinformation campaign on the national population census.
- The Director General of LISGIS, Dr. Edward Liberty said politicians have begun wrongly informing on the internet that the institute reported a 1.5 million population for Liberia.
- Dr. Liberty described the campaign as discouraging and an attempt to discredit the work of the LISGIS.
- He clarified that the total population as reported in the preliminary census result remains at 3.5 million and not 1.5 million as is alleged.

Resolution to Remove President Pro Tempore Unearth

- Star Radio has seen a draft resolution seeking the removal of the President Pro- Tempore of the Senate, Isaac Nyenaboe.
- The draft resolution among other things accused Pro Tempore Nyenaboe of administrative ineptitude but did not provide detail on the charge.
- According to reports, the draft resolution has been signed by at least 20 Senators and is likely to be introduced today in the Senate.
- The President Pro Tempore however said he has already dealt with the issue.

Associated Press
Friday, 1 August 2008

Karadzic skirmishes with UN war crimes court

By ARTHUR MAX

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, appearing for the first time before the U.N. war crimes tribunal, declined to enter a plea and told the judge he intended to act as his own attorney.



Karadzic was told Thursday at his initial hearing that prosecutors will object to his demand to represent himself and Judge Alphons Orie scheduled an Aug. 29 hearing at which Karadzic must enter pleas.

If he does not, the court will enter pleas of innocent to 11 charges on his behalf.

"With all due respect to you personally, I will defend myself before this institution as I would defend myself before any natural catastrophe," Karadzic told Orie.

Karadzic also claimed his seizure and trial violated a deal he made with the United States in 1996 that the case against him would be scrapped if he left politics and did not undermine the peace agreement that ended the Bosnian war.

The plea hearing took place a day after he was extradited from Serbia to answer genocide and war crimes charges for the murder of thousands of Bosnian Muslims and Croats and for directing a reign of terror during the 1992-95 Bosnian war.

Prosecutor Alan Tieger asked the judge to caution Karadzic about the risks of conducting his own defense — an indication that the prosecution wanted to avoid a repeat of the much-criticized trial of former Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milosevic who died in jail in 2006 before his four-year trial ended.

It was the first time Karadzic was seen in public since he dropped from sight more than a decade ago. He appeared thinner, grayer, but still defiant, self-confident and able to joke.

The full beard, long hair and loose white clothes that he wore when posing as a new age psychologist in Belgrade were replaced by a clean shave, fresh haircut and a business suit with a black briefcase.

"I've been in worse places," he replied with a smile when Orie asked him about conditions at the U.N. jail.

For many war survivors, the sight of Karadzic brought fresh pain to old wounds.

About 20 widows in Tuzla, Bosnia watched his court appearance on TV in the small office of the Association of the Mothers of Srebrenica, site of a wartime massacre.

"There is the trash," one woman said when Karadzic came into court. Three women burst into tears.

"I have not found one bone of my children yet and there he is — alive," said Ramiza Music, 52, who lost two teenage sons, a husband and two brothers at Srebrenica. "Today I feel there is a bit of justice in this otherwise really pitiful world."

In the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, coffee bars showed Karadzic's hearing on giant flat-screen TVs.

"It's him," said Elvir Kljakic, 27, who lost his father and brother during the war. "It's the beast. I did not believe it until now."

"I'm happy and sad at the same time," said Alena Tiro, 42. "Happy because the world seems to be not as bad as I thought so far if it forced him to the courtroom. Sad because 100,000 people he killed are not watching this."

More than 100,000 people were killed during the Bosnian war as part of a campaign to purge the country of non-Serbs.

Though dismissive of the court, Karadzic was respectful, stood at military attention when Orie entered the courtroom and sat motionless as the judge summed up the charges against him.

Orie also cut Karadzic off when he began speaking about a deal he insists he made with U.N. negotiator Richard Holbrooke in 1996, a year after he was indicted by the U.N. court in The Hague.

The judge did not allow him to fully explain his version of events. He said the court would hear those complaints at the right time, but "the appropriate moment is not now." He suggested Karadzic file a legal submission in writing.

The U.S. State Department declined to discuss the issue. Spokesman Sean McCormack referred questions about it to Holbrooke, whom he said has publicly denied any such deals.

Holbrooke told AP Television News on Thursday that in 1996 he did go to Belgrade "to negotiate an agreement with Milosevic and two of Karadzic's henchmen that Karadzic would quit as president of the Serbian portion of Bosnia and as head of his political party immediately and disappear from public life."

Karadzic "reluctantly signed that agreement without ever coming to the negotiations," Holbrooke said.

But Holbrooke dismissed claims that the United States had in return promised Karadzic that there wouldn't be a "search to capture him if he would disappear."

"He's one of the greatest mass murderers of the world and he's putting this out in order to defend himself. It's an invented story and no one ought to believe it," Holbrooke said.

But Karadzic's face showed frustration when Orie refused to let him read a prepared four-page statement outlining "numerous irregularities," including a claim that he was kidnapped three days before his announced arrest in Belgrade on July 21.

San Francisco Chronicle

Friday, 1 August 2008

Opinion

The end of impunity?

Mark V. Vlasic



Justice caught up with Radovan Karadzic Thursday, when he was formally charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes at the United Nations war crimes tribunal in The Hague. Thirteen years after the Srebrenica genocide, when Bosnian Serb forces rounded up more than 7,500 Muslim men and boys and slaughtered them in cold blood, thousands with their eyes blindfolded and their hands tied behind their backs, the former president of Serb-controlled Bosnia will find himself in the very same dock that held former Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic. Former President Karadzic is accused of presiding over the worst massacre in Europe since the Holocaust. And as he sits between two U.N. prison guards in an international tribunal, one must wonder, is the end of impunity finally coming to a close?

In 2002, I sat across from Slobodan Milosevic in the first war crimes trial of a head of state. It was a historic trial - one supported by the United Nations and the international community - and one that only a few years earlier, I thought never would happen. You see, up until April 2001, when the Butcher of the Balkans was arrested at his Belgrade villa, it was almost presumed that if you were a terrible dictator, or a head of state bent on mass slaughter and destruction, then you would never see the inside of a courtroom.

Lesser functionaries, yes - they might go to trial - but the top officials were virtually untouchable. As presidents, they probably would die in office, or escape to a well-appointed villa to live out their lives in comfortable exile. But now, in the short time I've been a lawyer, the very presumptions that have guided human history have changed ... and we've almost taken this for granted.

After the arrest and trial of Milosevic came the arrest and trial of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein - the first war crimes trial of a Middle East leader in history - and then the arrest of former Liberian President Charles Taylor, who now also sits in the dock in The Hague. It seems that with every year, the dominoes of impunity keep falling, first Europe, then the Middle East, then Africa. And they continue to fall: Chad's exiled former president, Hissène Habré, is to stand trial at a special court in Senegal, while in Asia, another domino is falling.

Khieu Samphan, the former president of the Khmer Rouge, is facing a U.N.-sponsored court in Cambodia for his part in "the killing fields" - the slaughter of his own people - nearly 30 years ago.

Most recently, the International Criminal Court in The Hague has dropped another domino with its indictment of President Omar al-Bashir of Sudan for genocide. The question now is not if another president will ever be charged, but rather when. And who is next?

This is a fundamental change in the presumption that dictators will go unpunished. Unlike those of us who studied law and justice in the 20th century, the next generation of international prosecutors and foreign policy professionals - those graduating from universities and law schools in the 21st century - will only know a world where such terrible dictators do stand trial.

Such a presumption may empower the next generation of leaders to act - and perhaps with time - to bring an end to impunity. Sixty years after the world's experiment with international justice at Nuremberg - and after millions of lives shattered by war crimes, destruction and perverted leadership, we should be cautiously optimistic that there is some hope for humanity. But that hope is only sustained if we keep pressing the cause of justice. Let us challenge ourselves to press on, and let us hope that future dictators take notice.

Mark V. Vlastic, a senior fellow at Georgetown's Institute for International Law and Politics, served on the Srebrenica prosecution trial team at the U.N. war crimes tribunal. He helped to train the judges who tried Saddam Hussein, and worked with the President's Special Envoy to Sudan while serving as a White House fellow in 2006-07. The views expressed here are his own.