

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



Sitting in the 'boat-yard' at Tombo.

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, 26 November 2010

Press clips are produced Monday through Friday.
Any omission, comment or suggestion, please contact
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Torchlight

Friday, 26 November 2010

The U.S. Provides \$4.5 Million to Fund Special Court for Sierra Leone Trial of Charles Taylor

Office of the Spokesman,

Washington, DC :

On November 22 the Department of State released a \$4.5 million grant for FY2011 to the Special Court of Sierra Leone. This grant demonstrates the U.S. commitment to ensuring that those most responsible for the atrocities committed during the war in Sierra Leone are brought to justice. This grant was expedited due to the financial crisis the Court is currently facing. By all calculations, the Court would have run out of money by early December which could have jeopardized the continuation of the Charles Taylor trial before the Court reached a verdict. (PHOTO : Charles Taylor).

The Special Court for Sierra Leone was set up jointly by the Government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations. It is mandated to try those who bear the greatest responsibility for serious violations of international humanitarian law and Sierra Leonean law committed in the territory of Sierra Leone since

November 30, 1996.

The SCSL indicted former Liberian President Charles Taylor and 12 others for war crimes and crimes against humanity in 2003, due to their involvement in and support of some of the worst atrocities in Sierra Leone's civil war. The trials of three former leaders of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC), of two members of the Civil Defense Forces (CDF) and three former leaders of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) have been completed, including appeals, leaving only the trial of Charles Taylor (two indictees died before the trial stage). On June 16, 2006, the trial of Charles Taylor was transferred to The Hague because Taylor's continued presence and trial in Freetown represented an impediment to stability in the sub-region, a threat to the peace of Liberia and Sierra Leone, and a threat to international peace and security in the region. The trial of Charles Taylor is close to completion; the defense evidence concluded on November 12 and a trial



judgment is due in mid-2011 with an appeal to be resolved by early 2012.

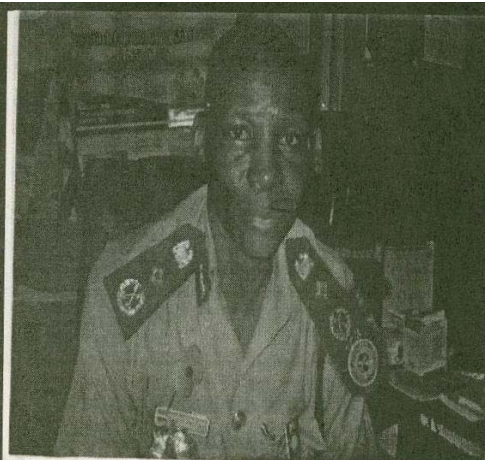
The trial of Charles Taylor is of enormous historical and legal significance as he is the first African head of state to be brought before an international tribunal to face charges for mass atrocities and gross violations of international humanitarian law. The Taylor prosecution delivers a strong message to all perpetrators of atrocities, including those in positions of power that they will be held accountable. It is imperative the international community prevents the

Taylor trial from being suspended due to lack of financial resources, which is why the United States rushed its FY2011 contribution to the Court. We hope other donor states will follow our lead and find ways to financially support the Court until it has finished its mandate and justice has been served.

As a major donor to the Special Court, the United States serves on the Special Court's Management Committee in New York. To date, the United States has contributed \$81,189,445 amount to the Special Court.

PEEP!

Friday, 26 November 2010



18 Cells Relocated At Special Court for Females

Director of Prisons Explains

By Mohamed Sheriff

The Director of Prisons Mr. Moses Showers on Saturday 13th November 2010, told Peep Magazine at Prisons Headquarters New England that, female prisoners at the Pademba Road maximum prisons will be relocated to the special court for Sierra Leone this week due to the accommodation and to improve the welfare of female 5 compared to the international standards as the 18 cells will only accommodate 30 female prisoners.

Director of Prison said the new relocation at the special court has a space for female inmates too engage in indoor and outdoor activities that will be useful for them. He admitted that the Pademba Road prison is over crowded over the past years and that the capacity of prison officers cannot cope with the convictions that go on all the time. Noting that the central prison was built in 1914 for 324 prisoners, he said the said number has now increased over 80%.

Mr. Showers disclosed to Peep that the Sierra Leone prison will now be named the Correctional Services and not Prison Services, after the completion of the restructuring process.

He therefore concluded that over crowding, logistics, financial support and capacity building are major changes they face but said will try by all means to put an end to it for the betterment of the prisoners and the country as a whole. He said staff at the prison under his administration will have adequate prison quarters for accommodation

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SPECIAL COURT CELLS

and vehicles for transportation for the operations. Mr. Showers also said since he took over office in 2008, there have been a successes in the areas of staff capacity building local and international for a better work. Adding that under his administration they have

opened the training unit of the prison Mr. Showers further stated that the Minister of Local Government will soon take the existing prison ordinance and Prison Rules of 1960-1961 respectively to the House of Parliament as part of the restructuring

process of his administration. He commended the first Lady Sia Koroma and other major stakeholders for securing the Special Court for the female inmate.

Peacebuilding Commission Ambassador Visit To Salone

By Michael Massaquoi

Coordinator, Peacebuilding Commission Secretariat.

Ambassador John McNee, the Chairman of the Peacebuilding Commission's Country-Specific Configuration on Sierra Leone, will be visiting Freetown from 29th November until 3rd December 2010. During that period Ambassador McNee will meet with national stakeholders and international partners including line ministries, sectors, political parties, civil Society Organisations and Development agencies.

The visit will provide a platform for the Country-Specific Chairman to have an insight of progress made in areas such as youth unemployment, reintegration of ex-combatants and wealth generation with particular reference to micro-credit facilities during a two day seminar from 2nd-3rd November held at UNIPSIL.

The Seminar is organised by the Permanent Representative

of Austria to the United Nations and the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in New York on the theme: "Strategies and Lessons Learned on Sustainable Reintegration and Job Creation: What Works in West Africa?". The forum will bring together representatives of the United Nations Secretary-General, Governments, Civil Society Organisations and Private Sector from Ivory Coast, Guinea, Liberia, Guinea Bissau and Sierra Leone along with their partners and donors.

According to a UNIPSIL statement issued on Wednesday, 17th November, the objective of the Seminar is to share lessons on successful strategies and activities aimed at creating sustainable jobs and economic opportunities that can be adapted to other post-conflict countries.

The Canadian born PBC Chairman will make a courtesy call on President Koroma at State House following a visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Inter-

national Cooperation. Ambassador McNee will thereafter engage with the Anti-Corruption Commissioner, Ministers of Finance, Internal Affairs and Mineral Resources and a host of others.

It is expected that the Ambassador will also meet with the Diplomatic Corps, the United Nations Country Team, National Youth Commission, and more importantly, the main political parties. It would be recalled that Sierra Leone was one of two countries to be adopted on the Agenda for the Peacebuilding Commission since its inception in 2005. This led to the mobilisation of resources and support as well as providing advice in order to prevent those countries from relapsing into conflict.

The last four years have seen an UN uninterrupted engagement with Sierra Leone and has generally acclaimed a model for addressing the causes of conflict and consolidating the peace.

Following the successful conclusion of the DDR programme,

leading to the reform of the security sector and the reintegration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees, the Country was poised for consolidation of the peace and the transition from relief to development. This laid the foundation for the PBC to engage the Government in identifying priority areas for intervention in 2006 in the following key areas: Governance, Youth Employment, Capacity Building (in the public sector) Human Rights until the inclusion of the Energy Sector in 2007 as well as the narrowing down of all existing framework to the Agenda for Change. As a first practical step after the adoption of the cooperation framework, the UN Secretary-General provided a sum of \$35m each to Sierra Leone and Burundi as a catalytic fund to implement some quick impact projects for peacebuilding. The benefit of the PBC engagement with Sierra Leone among others include, the continued engagement of the international community with Sierra

Ambassador
John McNee,
Chair, Country-
Specific on Sierra
Leone



Leone through advocacy, provide technical support and mobilise resources for the implementation of these priority areas.

This has translated into supporting the democratic transition in 2007 witnessing transfer of power to the main opposition party. The engagement further provided support to the judiciary and Human Rights Commission which has contributed significantly to the disposal of the back log of cases in the judiciary and the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

(TRC) relative to the aspects of Human Rights respectively. The signing of the April 2 Joint Communiqué by the two main political parties following the skirmishes in March 2009 was an innovative approach to handling a potentially political divide to promote tolerance and inter party dialogue of peacebuilding and development. The enactment of gender related legislation and (to recently elaboration of the National Action Plan for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008) have important milestones indicating the

Government's commitment to addressing the wave of gender based violence.

The review and robust enforcement of the legislations of Anti-Corruption and Narcotic Drugs Trafficking and organised crimes has strategically positioned Sierra Leone as a reliable partner in the fight against the two scourges. The two related institutions, the ACC and the Joint Drug Interdiction Task Force (JDITF) do enjoy broad powers in the execution of their tasks.

However, despite these achievements, challenges remain which include the astronomical difference in the resource commitment to aspects such as Peacebuilding and preventive diplomacy vis-à-vis Peacebuilding is worrying phenomenon-experience has shown that only a mere 2-5

phenomenon-experience has shown that only a mere 2-5 percent allocated to peacekeeping operations goes to such missions as UNIPSIL.

The Youth Unemployment Syndrome in nearly every post-conflict society presents a serious obstacle to the consolidation of peace and economic recovery. The visiting Ambassador will note among other things that there is need to address expanded institutional and human capacity constraints that continue to beset the peace consolidation and the sustained economic growth of the country.

No one knows whether this could be the last visit of Ambassador John McNee in his capacity as Chair, PBC's Country-Specific but there are strong indications that the PBC could shift its focus to Liberia having recently been adopted on the Agenda.

The Christian Science Monitor

Wednesday, 24 November 2010

ICC to name Kenyan politicians behind 2007 poll violence

By Scott Baldauf, Staff Writer

ICC prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo has said he will name the top Kenyan politicians accused of orchestrating massive violence following the December 2007 elections. Ocampo's plans to try officials could set a strong precedent against the use of ethnic violence to achieve political power.



Chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court Luis Moreno-Ocampo is seen during a news conference in The Hague, Netherlands, Nov. 22.

Michael Kooren/AP

Johannesburg, South Africa

Kenyan politicians accused of orchestrating post-election violence after the country's disputed Dec.

27, 2007, presidential and parliamentary elections may finally get their day in court.

That court, of course, will be the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands, and the prosecutor will be Luis Moreno-Ocampo, the man who is also involved in cases of genocide and war crimes against Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir.

Mr. Ocampo recently met with Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga to inform them of the next step in the post-election violence cases, and this week told reporters that he planned to try up to a half dozen top Kenyan politicians in open court, with names released as soon as Dec. 15.

"We'll prove that some leaders from both parties, both sides, were abusing the loyalty of their communities to attack others," Mr. Ocampo said, in a video played for reporters planning to cover the upcoming Kenyan cases at The Hague. "The crimes committed were serious. They were not just crimes against one community or Kenya; but crimes against humanity and justice has to be done."

It didn't have to happen this way.

The violence of late December 2007 to mid-February 2008, which killed an estimated 1,200 people and displaced 350,000 others, had a brutal ethnic nature that shook the world's faith in Kenya's fragile multiparty democracy and its reputation as a stable entry point for investment into East Africa.

As part of an agreement that created a coalition government and a new parliament – through mediation conducted by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan -- the new parliamentarians were required to create a special tribunal to investigate the post-election violence. If the parliamentarians balked at this requirement, the ICC could step in and carry out the prosecution on their behalf.

Balk they did, and by July 2009 it became clear that Ocampo would have to take over the investigation.

The chief evidence for the ICC case was collected by the Kenyan government itself, under a commission headed by Kenyan court Justice Philip Waki. The so-called Waki Commission issued its report to Kenya's parliament, which apparently never acted on it. The commission report included eyewitness accounts from human rights activists and local community leaders, many of whom have been forced to seek police protection or to go into hiding.

Ocampo has indicated that he has enough evidence from the Waki report to prosecute at least six senior government officials. Further reports have indicated that police and other security officials may be subject to investigation as well.

Curiously, while no Kenyan official has been named by either the Waki Commission or by Ocampo's office, two senior politicians – former Education Minister William Ruto of the Orange Democratic Movement and Finance Minister Uhuru Kenyatta of the president's Party for National Unity – have taken the step to name themselves, and to begin their own public defense.

Mr. Ruto went so far as flying to The Hague a few weeks back to meet with Ocampo's office, saying that he did so to clear his name.

"I used the opportunity to share my point of view and the information that I have on issues ICC is investigating in our country," Mr. Ruto told the East African Standard newspaper.

Ruto claimed that the Kenyan National Human Rights Commission (KNHRC) and Justice Waki had paid informants and manufactured evidence against him. "Kenya National Human Rights Commission and Waki [Commission] did not give some of us, and especially myself, opportunity to respond to issues raised. The judge himself [Philip Waki] went ahead to peddle falsehood that I had testified when I had not."

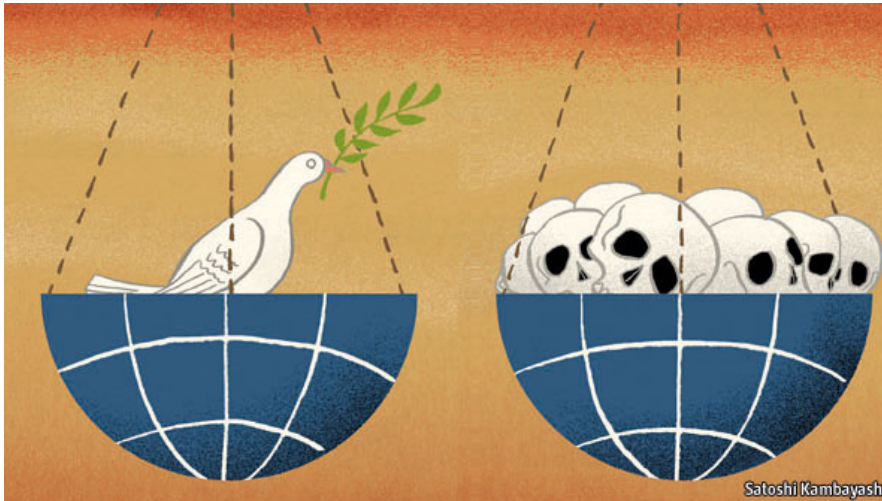
Mr. Kenyatta formally – but unsuccessfully – requested that his name be removed from the KNHRC report to the Waki Commission, believing that it implicated him in the violence. He has said that he welcomes the chance to face the charges in court.

"Personally, I think once due process has taken place the truth eventually will come through and people will get to know what the situation was," Kenyatta told the Daily Nation newspaper last month. "Kenya has proved that it stands by its domestic and international commitments."

By mid-December, Ocampo's announcement should end the mystery, and Mr. Ruto and Mr. Kenyatta should know whether their troubles are over, or just beginning.

In the dock, but for what?

Enthusiasm is flagging for spectacular trials to punish war crimes and human-rights abuses



IF BEING busy is the test, then international justice is in rude health. This week saw a landmark in the short, sputtering history of the International Criminal Court (ICC), an institution

based in The Hague that is supposed to be the ultimate resort against infamies which might otherwise go unpunished. On November 22nd, after many procedural twists, the trial began in earnest of Jean-Pierre Bemba, a rich Congolese warlord and the most senior political leader to be detained by the ICC so far. He is accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity—not in Congo, but in the neighbouring Central African Republic, where he intervened on the president's side during a coup attempt. The ICC is also about to name six prominent Kenyans as alleged instigators of the violence that followed the 2007 elections.

Elsewhere in the Dutch city, the tribunal on ex-Yugoslavia will soon have further questions for Radovan Karadzic, political leader of the Bosnian Serbs, about the massacre near Srebrenica in 1995 (see table). Two other special-purpose courts in The Hague will also be busy. One deals with Sierra Leone and is trying Liberia's former president, Charles Taylor. Another is struggling, despite opposition from the armed Shia opposition in Lebanon, to investigate the bomb attack that killed Rafik Hariri, then prime minister, in Beirut in 2005. Most important of all, the United Nations Security Council must decide what to do about Sudan, where president Omar al-Bashir is wanted by the ICC.

Courts and countries

Criminal courts prosecuting war crimes, genocide and human-rights abuses

Court	Year*	Status
International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia	1993	161 indicted: 63 sentenced, 12 acquitted, 13 referred to national court, 36 indictments withdrawn, 35 persons on trial, two fugitives
International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda	1994	52 cases completed: 44 sentenced, eight acquitted; 22 cases in progress, ten fugitives
Special Court for Sierra Leone	2002	13 indicted: eight sentenced, three deceased, one fugitive, Charles Taylor on trial
Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia	2006	Four senior Khmer Rouge leaders indicted, one sentenced to 19 years
Special Tribunal For Lebanon	2007	Investigation started, no indictments yet
International Criminal Court (ICC)		
Uganda	2004	Five arrest warrants for rebel leaders: one deceased, four fugitives
Congo	2004	Five arrest warrants: three on trial, one in pre-trial, one fugitive
Sudan (Darfur)	2005	Three fugitives, including President Omar al-Bashir, two other suspects appeared voluntarily and are in pre-trial
Central African Republic	2007	Jean-Pierre Bemba in custody, trial under way
Kenya	2010	Indictments expected imminently

Sources: Courts; *The Economist*

*Tribunal created or ICC opened investigation

Despite all this activity, however, enthusiasm is flagging for the idea of spectacular transnational trials that punish wrongdoers and promote lawfulness and peace. The biggest ad-hoc tribunals, established by the Security Council in the bold and zealous early 1990s, are winding up. The one dealing with ex-Yugoslavia is due to finish its primary trials by 2012. The tribunal trying those responsible for the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, based in the Tanzanian city of Arusha, is drawing to a close.

Both have run up quite a bill, mainly because they had to maintain expensive networks of investigators on the ground. Prosecuting the crimes in ex-Yugoslavia has so far cost around \$2 billion. The tribunal for Rwanda spent more than \$1.4 billion. When their activities reached a peak in 2004 the two courts were gobbling up about 15% of the UN's entire budget, notes Adam Smith, an American lawyer and diplomat, in a book called "After Genocide".

Few if any such one-off extravaganzas will be set up again. The newly fashionable approach is "mixed courts", combining local and global legal expertise, as in Cambodia. Yet the general-purpose ICC is not cheap either, with an annual budget of nearly \$150m. Some complain that it offers even less value for money, having so far yielded only a dozen arrest warrants and indictments, all relating to Africa.

The court's supporters argue its very existence has huge indirect benefits: signalling to wrongdoers all over the world that their misdeeds risk retribution and that might does not always equal right. But growth in the court's caseload faces big constraints. Its prosecutor can pursue an investigation only in carefully limited circumstances, for instance at a member country's invitation or at the behest of the Security Council.

In 2005 the Security Council took a fateful step by referring the situation in Darfur to the ICC, which led to the indictment of Sudan's president. It is hard to see that happening again, either. Two permanent council members, Russia and China, are

protective of national sovereignty and wary of precedents that undermine it. It therefore looks unlikely that the Security Council would take, say, Sri Lanka's or Burma's leaders to task.

NGOs may have shamed governments into acting over Darfur. But they are hobbled by ideological divisions. For many American human-rights campaigners, the biggest menace is repressive Islamic regimes. At the other extreme Claudio Cordone, senior director of Amnesty International, a campaign group based in London, wants America to investigate the former president, George Bush junior, for ordering the waterboarding of terrorism suspects.

The idea that human-rights abuses and war crimes should be punished gained ground in the 1990s, as democratic regimes replaced authoritarian ones in many parts of the world, notably Latin America. But it is harder to apply in zones of ethnic strife or failed states. From Belfast to the Hindu Kush, conflict zones abound where the only credible interlocutors in a peace process happen to be rebel leaders or warlords. In any effort to broker a political settlement (and NATO's exit) in Afghanistan, few will scrutinise the Taliban's human-rights record too carefully. (Those recently negotiating with a leading Pushtun did not even realise that he was an impostor.)

Still, some close observers of global-justice bodies think the principle of accountability for terrible crimes is now too well established to unravel quickly. The Security Council has recently sent signals that protecting civilians from atrocities will remain one of its chief concerns. And the world's emerging powers are absorbing that ethos as they come to play a more prominent role, says Edward Luck of the International Peace Institute, a think-tank.

Other veterans of UN diplomacy say that governments cannot just sit on their hands when they confront a humanitarian crisis. Activating the ICC, as in Sudan, may sometimes be the least bad choice. Colin Keating, who helped establish the Rwandan and Balkan tribunals and now heads Security Council Report, another think-tank, sees a "high chance" of judicial responses to future crises. And Richard Dicker of Human Rights Watch, a New York-based lobby group, thinks that even in its present mood and make-up, the Security Council could hardly avoid mandating a judicial process if it were presented, once again, with a "situation of unrelenting horror" comparable to Darfur or Rwanda.

Yet the idea that the ICC might be called into a war zone in the absence of any other effective response is troubling. In some parts of the Balkans, international justice helped create peace precisely because it was used in combination with other instruments, from peacekeeping to economic aid. Dishing out indictments, but doing nothing much else, could in some cases be worse than useless.

UPI.Com

Wednesday, 24 November 2010

Concerns raised about the Special Tribunal for Lebanon

Kataeb bloc Member of Parliament Sami Gemayel said he believes that Hezbollah will attempt to force Lebanon into rejecting the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.

The Special Tribunal for Lebanon was established to investigate the 2005 assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

Gemayel said: "We are committed to everything the tribunal issues but, if the indictment accuses Hezbollah, we will not accuse it because this accusation represents the investigators' point of the view and not the final (verdict) issued by the STL.

"The current system was not able to limit discussions to institutions. (It was not able) to limit sectarianism and spread of arms within a certain Lebanese category. This means it is unsuccessful," NOW Lebanon news site reported Wednesday.

Last November the Lebanese Cabinet agreed to postpone discussion of the STL and President Michel Suleiman argued that a vote on the issue should be avoided in order to avoid division. Tension is rising in Lebanon amid unconfirmed reports that the U.N.-backed investigation will soon issue an indictment in the Hariri killing and allegedly will name Hezbollah members.

Radio Netherlands Worldwide

Thursday, 25 November 2010

Dutch seek fugitive Nazi criminal from Germany

By Marijntje Lazet



The Hague, Netherlands

(Photo: RNW)

The Netherlands on Thursday issued an arrest warrant seeking the extradition of an 88-year-old Dutch-born convicted Nazi criminal who has been living in Germany for over sixty years.

Former SS soldier Klaas Carel Faber was jailed for killing Jewish prisoners at a Nazi transit camp. Faber was sentenced to death by a Dutch court in 1947 for murdering 22 Jews, although this was later commuted to life imprisonment.

Faber escaped from a Dutch prison in 1952, fleeing to Germany where he obtained German citizenship. The European arrest warrant is a preliminary step before a formal extradition request is filed with the German authorities, the public prosecutor's office said in a statement.

Faber, who is high on the Simon Wiesenthal Center's list of wanted Nazis, served in a special SS unit in the Nazi-occupied Netherlands which killed Dutch civilians deemed "anti-German" as reprisals for resistance attacks.

His arrest has been hindered by a German law preventing extradition of German nationals for war crimes, though Germany itself sentenced another former Dutch Nazi, Heinrich Broere, to life in prison in March this year.

But authorities in Bavaria had said in August there was only a "theoretical" chance of new proceedings being brought against Faber, who has seen off several previous attempts to extradite him.

A special Dutch prosecution team, the TES, that seeks to enforce older sentences said the issued warrant supercedes national regulations and, prosecutors argue, could allow Germany to hand him over for trial.

However, international criminal law expert Geert-Jan Knoops is of the opinion that the Dutch extradition attempt "will most likely not succeed".

"Despite attempts to file for extradition, the German Constitutional Court still prevents extradition of German nationals for war crimes until today," Knoops stated.

He further characterised the European arrest warrant as a "political statement" of the Dutch government.

In October a new centre right Dutch cabinet was formed, in which issues such as the statute of limitation, higher punishments and security directly correspond with the new government's political agenda, Knoops said.