



International Justice Symposium in collaboration with the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation

## West African International Justice – Leadership, Challenges, and Opportunities

21 – 22 March 2019

Accra, Ghana

West Africa has been the scene of impressive activity in the fight against impunity for international crimes. While other regions of the world are often the focus point for interested observers of international criminal justice, the engagement with justice and accountability processes in West Africa deserves scrutiny in its own right.

Since the establishment of the Special Court for Sierra Leone in 2002, the West African region has experienced a burgeoning interest in justice for international crimes. In 2015, the Extraordinary African Chambers put the former President of Chad, Hissène Habré on trial for atrocities committed during his rule. At the same time, the International Criminal Court has been an involved actor in the region. It has opened investigations in the Ivory Coast and Mali. These investigations have yielded numerous trials, including that of former Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo who was recently acquitted for crimes allegedly committed during the 2011 post-election violence in Ivory Coast, and that of a Malian Islamic extremist, Ahmad Al Faqi Al Mahdi, for the destruction of shrines and heritage sites in Timbuktu. It also has opened preliminary examinations in Guinea, and Nigeria where many believe it has helped to spur local investigations and prosecutions. Other states in the region, including Liberia and The Gambia, are considering their own, custom-made justice and accountability processes.

But West Africa has not just been the locus of activity in the investigation and prosecution of human rights violations and international crimes; it has also contributed significantly to the development of international criminal justice. Trials and prosecutions in the region have made an indelible impact on issues such as the prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence crimes, the linkages between international and transnational crime, the hybridization of international and national law and practices within tribunals, the conscription and use of child soldiers, etc.

In order to examine and explore the contributions and ongoing challenges facing West Africa in the fight to achieve meaningful justice and accountability for atrocities in the region, the Wayamo Foundation, the Africa Group for Justice and Accountability (AGJA) and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung will hold a symposium **on 21 and 22 March 2019**, under the banner of “**West African International Justice – Leadership, Challenges, and Opportunities**”. During this one-and-a-half-day conference, international and regional experts will critically assess the contributions of West Africa to global justice and the continuing challenges of achieving justice for atrocity crimes.

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## Programme

**Thursday 21 March 2019**



Gerhard Schröder Hall, Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre

### **8:30: Registration of participants**

### **9:00 – 9:10: Welcoming remarks**

- **Griffiths S. Evans**, Air Vice Marshal, Commandant, Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC)

### **9:10 – 9:45: Opening remarks**

- **Bettina Ambach**, Director, Wayamo Foundation
- **Hassan Bubacar Jallow**, Chair of the Africa Group for Justice and Accountability (AGJA) and Chief Justice of The Gambia
- **Justice Sophia Akuffo**, Chief Justice of Ghana, Supreme Court of the Republic of Ghana
- **Christoph Retzlaff**, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany
- **Peter Wendoh**, Project Advisor, Rule of Law Program for Sub Saharan Africa, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Nairobi

### **Group picture**

### **9:45 – 10:30: Leadership, Challenges and Opportunities – A conversation with:**

- **Zainab Bangura** AGJA Member and Former UN Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, and
- **Navi Pillay**, AGJA Member and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

*Moderator: **Joseph Roberts Mensah**, Director, Wayamo Africa*

### **10:30 – 11:00: Coffee break**

### **11:00 – 12:30**

#### **Panel 1: The International Criminal Court in West Africa: Complementarity in Action?**

**Panellist 1** on Guinea – **Elise Keppler**, Associate Director, International Justice Program, Human Rights Watch

**Panellist 2** on Ivory Coast – **Eric-Aimé Semien**, President at Observatoire Ivoirien des Droits de l'Homme, Abidjan

**Panellist 3** on Nigeria – **Matthew Odu Una**, Prosecutor, Complex Case Group, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Nigeria

*Moderator: **Angela Mudukuti**, Senior International Criminal Justice Lawyer, Wayamo Foundation*

**12:30 – 13:30: Lunch break**

**13:30 – 15:00**

**Panel 2: The Future of International Justice and Emerging Contexts in the Region**

**Panellist 1** on Liberia - **Adama K. Dempster**, Secretary General, Civil Society Human Rights Advocacy Platform of Liberia and Lead Justice Campaigner for the Establishment of a War Crimes Court in Liberia

**Panellist 2** on Mali – **Philipp Ambach**, Chief of the Victims Participation and Reparations Section in the Registry of the International Criminal Court

**Panellist 3** on Central African Republic- **Catherine Samba-Panza**, AGJA member and former Transitional President of the Central African Republic

**Panellist 4** Overview of East African accountability initiatives - **Betty Kaari Murungi**, AGJA Member and Advocate of the High Court of Kenya

*Moderator: **Mohamed Chande Othman**, AGJA Member and former Chief Justice of Tanzania*

**15:00 – 15:15: Coffee break**

**15:15 – 16:45**

**Panel 3: New Challenges and New Opportunities: Investigating Human Rights Violations and Atrocity Crimes in the Region**

**Panellist 1:** Universal jurisdiction post Habré - **Reed Brody**, Counsel and Spokesperson for Human Rights Watch

**Panellist 2:** Investigating human rights violations in West Africa - **Justice Emile Short**, Former Chair, Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, Ghana

**Panellist 3:** Challenges in balancing prerogatives of peace and accountability - **Emmanuel Bombande**, Former Deputy Foreign Minister of Ghana and UN senior mediation advisor in the Central African Republic

**Panellist 4:** Security challenges in Ghana and in the region - **Kwesi Aning**, Director, Faculty of Academic Affairs & Research, Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, Ghana and Clinical Professor of Peacekeeping Practice at Kennesaw State University, Atlanta

*Moderator: **Fatiha Serour**, AGJA Member and Senior Adviser to the Global Alliance for Humanitarian Innovation.*

**16:45 – 17:00 Closing remarks by AGJA.**

Friday 22 March 2019



Moot Court, Faculty of Law, Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA), African Centre of International Criminal Justice

**8:30: Registration of participants**

**9:00-9:10: Welcoming remarks**

- **Kofi Abotsi**, Dean of the Law School, Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA)

**9:10-11:00**

**Lecture and discussion: Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking**

- **Rahel Gershuni**, UNODC Consultant and former National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator from Israel
- **Richard Ansah Gyambiby**, Senior State Attorney, Ministry of Justice and Attorney-General's Department, Ghana

*Moderator: Mark Kersten, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto and Deputy Director, Wayamo Foundation*

**11:00 Closing remarks**

- **Kwaku Agyeman Budu**, Head of Law Centres and Deputy Director of the African Centre of International Criminal Justice, Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA)

**Refreshments and departure of participants**