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WAR CRIMES

Arrest order may be cover for sex allegations

The indictment of the president of Sudan was meant to cover sex allegations against the chief prosecutor of the ICC personally, says the former ICC press spokesperson, who two days ago received damages in the millions for unlawful dismissal.

By Louise Voller

Allegations of genocide were meant to hide allegations of rape and alternative sexual misconduct.

When the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Luis Moreno-Ocampo chose to accuse the president of Sudan, Omar Hassan al-Bashir of genocide in July, this was meant to be a cover-up sex allegations against Ocampo personally.

This is the claim of Ocampo's former press spokesperson, the Swedish journalist Christian Palme, who accused Ocampo of rape and 'alternative sexual molestation' of a female South African journalist in 2005.

Two years later Ocampo fired his Swedish spokesperson, after which Christian Palme raised a case against Ocampo at the international labour tribunal (ILOAT). Which he won.

Total vindication

Christian Palme has just received a bank transfer from the ICC for 1.875 million kroner [dkk], which the international labour tribunal awarded him on 9 July for unlawful dismissal. On 12 July the demonstrations began in Khartoum against the planned arrest warrant for al-Bashir, which had been advertised by anonymous sources in LA Times already on 10 July.

"Is it just a coincidence?" asks doctor in international law and former lawyer at the ICC in The Hague, Mark Klamberg in Svenska Dagbladet.

"That the world news of the prosecutor's request for the arrest of Sudan's president was presented a few days after the decision in the ILOAT?"

Three years earlier at hotel Sunset West just outside Cape Town a female journalist makes an interview with chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo.

A few days later the journalist makes a telephone call to Palme's colleague,

who makes a recording of the conversation. She has been held back and forced to sex by Ocampo.

The female journalist does not want to report the incident, but Christian Palme makes a formal complaint to the Presidency of the ICC against Ocampo, after which he is fired. The press spokesman raises a case against Ocampo for unlawful dismissal, and at the international labour tribunal, ILOAT, the conclusion is:

"The recorded telephone conversation that occurred two days after the alleged event indicated that the journalist was distressed. And in that conversation, she indicated that the Prosecutor took her keys and that she had consented to sexual intercourse to get out of the situation."

The female journalist however abstains from all accusations and Ocampo is free.

Mark Klamberg writes about the judgment: "it is a full rehabilitation for Christian Palme and a massive indication of lack of confidence towards the Prosecutor. Even more serious is that the Prosecutor's actions damages the credibility of the entire Court."

"He (Ocampo) should resign immediately", wrote the legal correspondent Joshua Rozenberg in the British newspaper The Telegraph.

"A prosecutor who seeks to bring a president to justice must have judgment of the highest order. On the strength of these findings, Mr Moreno-Ocampo does not."