

**Charles A ADEOGUN-PHILLIPS** is an accomplished international lawyer, former international prosecutor, and head of special investigations at the UN. He founded the cross-border firm of Charles Anthony LLP, in following a pioneering career as a lead prosecutor at the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Charles joined the United Nations in January 1998 from private practice as a criminal defence lawyer in the UK, having been appointed to that role by Justice Louise Arbour (Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada and later UN High Commissioner for Human Rights). What he had initially thought would be a short-term sabbatical from the rigours of regular practice as a criminal defence solicitor in the City of London, eventually lasted well over a decade.

Between 1998 and 2010, Charles led, teams of international prosecutors in 12 precedent-setting genocide trials, making him arguably one of the most experienced and successful genocide prosecutors in history. His elevation to the rank of senior trial attorney before an international court at the age of 34, by the then Chief Prosecutor of the ICTY/ICTR, Ms Carla Del Ponte (former Attorney-General of Switzerland), was equally unrivalled. He also, between 2008 and 2009, served as head of special investigations in the OTP, under the leadership of Justice Hassan Jallow (the current Chief Justice of The Gambia).

With the 1945 trials of major war criminals before the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg serving as his only precedent, Charles' work as a lead prosecutor, fighting for justice, on behalf of over 800,000 victims of the worst crimes ever known to mankind, placed him in the forefront of several pioneering developments in the field of international humanitarian and criminal law, cumulating in his citation in the maiden edition of Creswell's "Who's Who in Public International Law" in 2007 and in the International Year Book and Statesmen's Who's Who in 2011.

In prosecuting 12 genocide cases before the ICTR, Charles tackled several novel substantive and procedural issues never addressed before in international law. The jurisprudence engendered in these trials not only contributed to the development of international law, but also helped strengthen and preserve the emerging system of transitional justice. These included the challenges of conducting international criminal investigations and prosecutions; the adequacy of pleadings and specificity of indictments in the context of large-scale international crimes; the development of the definition of rape as constituting acts of genocide; investigating and prosecuting international crimes involving sexual violence; guilty plea negotiations in the context of large-scale international crimes; command responsibility as concerns military and civilian superiors and the transfer of cases to foreign jurisdictions.

Since returning to private practice in 2010, Charles specialises in the areas of international human rights, international criminal law, international civil service law, complex 'white-collar' and business crimes, international investigations, and asset recovery. As part of his practice in the area of international human rights, between 2013 and 2014, he successfully represented Christopher Mtikila, the outspoken Tanzanian politician, in his watershed and precedent-setting case against the Tanzanian Government, before the African Court on Human and People's Rights, resulting in amendments to Tanzania's electoral laws to allow for independent candidacy for election to public office, as a violation the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, the International Convention of Civil and Political Rights, and

the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. The *Mtikila vs. Tanzania* case was the first case to be heard by the said Court on its merits since its inception in 2004. It was also the first case to be decided by the Court in favour of the Applicant and the first case before the Court on the issue of reparations.

Charles' advisory practice in the area of international criminal and humanitarian law has included providing specialist advice to the Nigerian Government in connection with the preliminary examinations launched by the ICC into alleged crimes against humanity and/or war crimes committed in the context of armed conflict between "Boko Haram" and the Nigerian security forces; and to the Military Defence Headquarters in Nigeria, following Amnesty International's allegations of extra judicial killings of "Boko Haram" members by the Nigerian Armed Forces. He also advises various Governments and international NGOs on ICC related transitional justice issues, including but not limited to; in connection with the 1988 mass extrajudicial executions and enforced disappearances of political prisoners in Iran and the allegation of genocide on members of the Orthodox Tewahedo Church in Ethiopia.

Charles' practice in the area of 'white-collar' and business crimes has focused mainly on representing sovereign States, major oil and gas corporations, and ultra-high-net-worth individuals in complex corruption and fraud cases, often with cross-border elements. In 2016, Charles was appointed by the Federal Republic of Nigeria to lead the unprecedented corruption investigations and trials of several senior judicial officers in Nigeria, including that of Sylvester Ngwuta, JSC a Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria. Since 2017, Charles has been retained by the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria, to investigate, trace and recover over 5 trillion Naira (14 billion US Dollars), currently owed to the Nigerian Government, following its acquisition in 2011, of non-performing loans from some of the country's ailing commercial banks.

Charles is currently engaged as counsel in a \$9.6 billion procurement fraud claim, the largest of its kind, brought before a UK court by a sovereign State against a foreign investor, following a repudiated infrastructure contract allegedly procured by fraud and corruption with the complicity of several public office holders. He also practices in the area of international civil service law, wherein he represents UN staff members in challenging administrative decisions of the UN Secretary-General before the United Nations Dispute and Appeals Tribunals.

Born in London England, on March 6, 1966, Charles was educated at Repton and read law at Warwick and London universities from where he graduated in 1989 and 1994 respectively. He was admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Nigeria in 1992 and as a Solicitor of the Superior Courts in England and Wales in 1996. In 2021, he was called to the Bar of England and Wales as a transferring Solicitor, by the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn.

With other leading international criminal law practitioners and/or academics around the world, Charles contributed to the book; *International Criminal Investigations: Law and Practice*, published by Eleven International at The Hague in 2017. He is currently admitted as List Counsel at the International Criminal Court, the Special Tribunal for Lebanon and at

the United Nations International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals. He is the focal point for Nigeria at the International Criminal Court Bar Association where he also sits on its Membership Committee. He is a member of the Association of Defence Counsel practising before the International Courts and Tribunals (ADC-ICT) and a Council member of the Section of Legal Practice of the Nigerian Bar Association. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of "New Faces New Voices" (Nigeria), a pan-African organisation of women in finance founded by Her Excellency, Mrs Graça Machel, the widow of the former South African President, the late Madiba Nelson Mandela.