

GOLER T. BUTCHER MEDAL LECTURE: THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF SOVEREIGN POWER FOR INTERNATIONAL CRIMES

This lecture was convened at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, April 8, 2022. Judge Chile Eboe-Osuji, former International Criminal Court president and 2022 Goler T. Butcher Medal recipient, was the honoree and lecturer. Michael Scharf of Case Western Reserve University School of Law was the discussant.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY CATHERINE AMIRFAR

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Welcome, everyone; it is a pleasure to see you as always. This is a very special inaugural event and one that I am very excited about because as we all know, the history of Goler T. Butcher is very special. This award has been awarded since 1997 to a distinguished person of American or other nationality for outstanding contributions to the development or effective realization of international human rights, and as we also know, it was named for Goler Teal Butcher, a remarkable person, prominent African American scholar, and professor of international law at Howard University School of Law, who served as the assistant administrator for Africa at the U.S. Agency for International Development in the Carter administration, and was a leading advocate for ending global hunger. We are here very much to honor the legacy.

The society's long connection with Judge Eboe-Osuji, including his speech at our last in-person meeting in 2019 while he was president of the International Criminal Court (ICC), is not to be forgotten, and that long relationship continues. We were so pleased to be able to give this wonderful award at yesterday's assembly. I want to thank Dean Michael Scharf and Case Western Reserve University School of Law for their very generous sponsorship of this event. I know she would be very proud of where this award is at this stage. Let me please welcome Michael to the podium.

REMARKS BY MICHAEL SCHARF

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Thank you so much, Catherine. As Catherine said, I am Michael Scharf, dean of Case Western Reserve University School of Law. We are very pleased to be sponsoring this program today, a conversation with Judge Chile Eboe-Osuji, one of my oldest friends in this field and recipient of the Butcher Medal.

Judge Eboe-Osuji served as president of the International Criminal Court in The Hague from 2018 to 2021. He was a trial chamber judge of the ICC from 2012 to 2018 and an appeals chamber judge from 2018 until his retirement in 2021. During that time, he presided over one of the most important decisions of the appeals chamber, and that is the question of immunity of heads of state in the *al-Bashir* case, decided in 2019. You will hear him talk to you a bit about that decision. We are going to explore some of its ramifications to the Ukraine crisis, which is unfolding today.

Prior to joining the ICC, Judge Eboe-Osuji served as the legal advisor to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva. He was also appeals counsel for the prosecution in the *Charles Taylor* case in the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Earlier he served as senior prosecutor at