

Presentation of the Proposal

The International Criminal Court (ICC), created in 2002 to combat impunity is once again at the heart of a controversy. Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine, which started on February 24, 2022 and Israel's war against Hamas and the Palestinians which started on October 7, 2023 have brought the issue of international justice and that of the International Criminal Court back at the heart of a new controversy. While the American authorities (under President Joe Biden) used their political leverage to have Russian President Vladimir Putin being tried by the International Criminal Court, they expressed indignation at the desire of this same institution to prosecute Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister. This contradiction has raised the issue of double standards that has often been at the center of debates regarding the issue of international justice. This situation validates the argument that I had developed in my book that I published two years ago on the International Criminal Court of Justice. Its title is: *Laurent Gbagbo's Trial and the Indictment of the International Criminal Court: A Pan-African Victory*. The trial of the former president of Ivory Coast, Laurent Gbagbo, was used to highlight the biases of the court which is known to prosecute African leaders. Even though he was eventually acquitted after 7 years of custody in the ICC, his trial further tarnished the already damaged reputation of the ICC accused of conducting the victor's justice, of being an instrument in the hands of the most powerful such as the United States and France who use lawfare to advance their hegemonic interests, as I demonstrated it in Chapter 2 of the book.

In that chapter 2, I discussed the assault of the US government against the ICC from George Bush to Donald J. Trump. News that the former prosecutor of the ICC Fatou Bensouda intended to investigate the crimes committed by US troops in Afghanistan and those committed by the US ally Israel in Gaza and Palestine had provoked the ire of the American administration. These recent political developments (Ukraine and Gaza) will peak the interest in the revised edition of the book. Seizing the opportunity of the current controversy surrounding the ICC, I would like to produce the 2nd edition of the book in order to include a chapter entitled "The Russo-Ukrainian War, the Israel-Hamas War and the Fate of the ICC". This chapter would update the discussion that I led in the book. Writing a chapter on "The Russo-Ukrainian War, the Israel-Hamas War and the Fate of the ICC" would bring more light on the book I had written, update the information, which is needed and further elucidate the validity of my argument in hindsight. Should I be awarded this grant, I will make some insertions in some parts of the book in order to give more accuracy to some parts that need more clarity besides the expansive conversation I intend to conduct on Ukraine and Gaza.

Publishing

The publishing house Vernon Press which published the first edition of the book agreed to publish its second edition at my request.

Research Transformed in Course

I have been presenting the issue of international justice and of the International Criminal Court in some of my classes namely in Contemporary World History and African Revolutions since 1945. I even taught a Pan-Africana Studies topical course on the issue of human rights in 2023, "Global Human Rights". The updated version of the book could serve to help build a cross listing course at Lincoln University called "Global Human Rights". This will be an interdisciplinary course to cover major academic areas, international relations, politics, criminal justice, law, and Pan-Africana Studies.

How the Research Fulfills Lincoln University Mission and Vision

The study may contribute to consolidate the legacy of the university as the haven of the liberal arts education. Through this work, I am trying to engage Lincoln University in the global conversation about global human rights and the international criminal court. This research is an opportunity for Lincoln University to lead again. The students will become better-informed global citizens cognizant of the concept of global human rights they

can apply in various professional contexts. The Lincoln University students will situate the civil rights movement and the Black Lives Movement in the context of a global conversation about the struggle against human rights abuses. Due to the rising importance of the ongoing debate about the international court, several universities have been creating courses on the issue of international justice. If Lincoln University were to create such a course, it would still be among the pioneer academic institutions to provide it, thus setting the pace regarding the discussion about international justice and Global Human Rights. Moreover, I would like to add that I put some emphasis on the contributions of two Lincoln University alumni, Kwame Nkrumah and Nnamdi Azikiwe with regard to the human rights struggle.

Budget Description:

The funds will be used for my own fees in Washington, DC, as I will be conducting research at the Law section of the Library of Congress. The funds will also help me purchase books.