

ALLOW me space in your newspaper to reflect roughly on what is going on at The Hague with regard to the former president of Yugoslavia, Slobodan Milosevic. Firstly, I would like to say that genocide is the worst form of atrocity and should never be condoned, regardless of where it takes place.

But what troubles me is the way the case of the former president of Yugoslavia is being handled. He has literally been kidnapped from his homeland, without going through the process of law of that country.

There was a process of law that was still taking place in Belgrade for Mr Milosevic's extradition to the Hague and this process has been sidelined and

# It's All About Double Standards

the constitutional law of that country has been violated. I recall when the Strong Man of Chile was detained in Britain at the request of the Government of Spain, he was accorded all the necessary legal procedures existing in Britain. British taxpayers paid millions of dollars for this process to be completed. All options were considered until he escaped on a technicality of poor health. The same process should have been followed in Yugoslavia.

The world knows why this case has been done the way it has - because the West has been holding the Yugoslav government by the neck. Aid would not

come unless Mr Milosevic was in the Hague. All that the West was interested in, despite the violation of that country's constitution, was to get the former president to the Hague to justify their involvement in Kosovo. Aid is a weapon that is being used and I am afraid that poor countries of the world will have to deal with this on a more regular basis.

The constitution of any country is supposed to be the supreme law and should not be violated, even in instances where billions of dollars are involved. I am not trying to defend the former president but I am looking at the process that led to his

kidnapping to The Hague. We should follow normal procedures and bully tactics should be avoided at all costs. None of the world leaders, including the UN Secretary General, looked at the implications of what has been done in Yugoslavia. What if the process of not abiding by the rules of the country's constitution is violated internally. Are the same leaders going to speak with authority about the need to abide by the rules of law and good governance? I do not think so.

We have wars in the world, and we expect the international community, especially the Western countries to exert the same

pressure on all the warring countries as it has been done in Yugoslavia. The country of Israel is committing all sorts of crimes against the people of Palestine. People are being bombed in their cars without their guilty being established in competent courts of law. Villages are being demolished and people's livelihoods are being bulldozed to rubble. There has been a call for sanctions to bear on Israel, but this has been dismissed as counter-pro-

ductive. Iraq, meanwhile, is suffering all kinds of sanctions. One wonders about the type of world we live in. Leaders are not ashamed to defend these double standards.

Here in Africa, countries such as Rwanda and Uganda are in the DRC doing all sorts of nasty things with impunity. The same Western countries are pumping millions in these economies, thereby tacitly condoning what they are doing in the DRC. But for one man (who was

in jail) the US threatened to boycott the donor's conference to give Yugoslavia aid desperately needed to reconstruct the infrastructure they helped to destroy.

Perhaps I should revisit the famous saying: "One who is without sin should cast the first stone." And when I say this, I draw solace from the fact that very few of the world leaders today have a high moral ground. They are neither cold nor hot.

**R Kakona  
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*Note: This letter has been shortened - Ed*

## Rehabilitate, Don't Castigate

ALLOW me space to air views on the legalise and in the process decrimi-