



Prime suspect Zvezdan Jovanovic in Belgrade in December 2003. KOCA SULEJMANOVIC/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

## War criminals find safe haven in U.K.

By STEPHEN JONES  
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LONDON—Dozens of alleged torturers and former members of military dictatorships around the world are escaping prosecution in the U.K. every year, which rights groups claim has transformed the country into a haven for war criminals.

Some 513 suspected war criminals have been refused immigration status in Britain since 2005, and 51 have been referred to the Metropolitan Police.

However, according to the Aegis Trust, a human rights group, no prosecutions have been made of those suspects—among whom are said to be alleged torturers from Saddam Hussein's Iraq regime, a figure from Mugabe's regime in Zimbabwe, Afghan warlords, and a member of the Sudanese Janjaweed.

"These laws must be enforced. If not, Britain will remain a safe haven," Nick Donovan, head of campaigns at the Aegis Trust, said in a statement.

"It's like white-collar crime such as insider trading in shares," he added. "You need arrests to prove that the law is a credible deterrent. We urge the Home Office to re-source these investigations properly and consider resurrecting the specialist war crimes unit at Scotland Yard."

Among the most controversial cases to be considered are four Rwandans—Vincent Bajinya, Celestin Ugirashebuja, Charles Muryaneza, and Emmanuel Nteziryayo—arrested in 2006 at their homes in Britain.

They were suspected of playing key roles in the genocide against Tutsis and moderate Hutus in 1994. All four have denied wrongdoing.

A ruling by the Home secretary for the men to be extradited was thrown out in April 2009 after High Court judges ruled there was "a real risk they would suffer a flagrant denial of justice" if returned to Rwanda.

According to the Aegis Trust statement, that ruling indicated that Britain had become a safe haven for war criminals because "suspects could neither be sent home to face trial nor face prosecution in the U.K. for any offense pre-dating 2001."

A spokesman for Scotland Yard said that a specialist team was actively considering the evidence.

"The Metropolitan Police Service has a group of officers who are the first point of contact for any allegations of war crimes," the spokesman said. "Information is dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Officers work to secure corroborating evidence available in this country to meet the threshold for a charge to be brought."

## Flash floods take Rio by surprise, over 100 dead

By FELIPE G. SANTIAGO  
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RIO DE JANEIRO—Rainfalls heavier than anything on record caught the city off guard late afternoon Monday when many were returning home from work. Within minutes a number of roads in the sprawling city were completely flooded, and landslides killed dozens.

The rain continued overnight and into Tuesday, with the death toll placed at over 100 at press time.

Many victims of landslides are still buried and missing, with firefighters working hard to turn over the land and wreckage. Rio de Janeiroans were distraught at the destruction.

"The city was and continues in a state of chaos," said nursing assistant Rita da Silva. "When I was returning from work, at around 6 p.m., I faced a flooded street with

a lot of sand and garbage floating everywhere."

Those most at risk during the flooding are the city's poor, of which there are many. Living in slums built onto unstable hillsides, called favelas, they are at nature's mercy when rain turns the hillsides into muddy ruin.

Within 24 hours 28cm of rain fell, making it the worst in the city's history, according to Mayor Eduardo Paes, who spoke at a press conference. The mayor asked residents of the city's hillsides to leave their homes for fear of destructive landslides if the soaked hills were to give way.

The state secretary of Health and Civil Defense, Sergio Cortes, said that eight firefighters were injured during the rescue of victims in the city of Niteroi. He also made a plea to those in areas of risk to leave their homes immediately and call the fire brigade.

Deeds of heroism were also to



Water and debris on a street in Rio de Janeiro. Flash floods took the city by surprise, leaving more than 100 dead. VINICIUS SANTIAGO / EPOCH TIMES

be found among the bedlam. Torben Graef, a yachtsman, saved a mother and child who had been trapped in their car with a male driver amidst flooding waters in Niteroi. Their car had been swept into his backyard by the torrential waters. Graef managed to rescue

the mother and her child, but a falling barrier hit the car, trapping the driver as it sank.

The city is on red alert. In a press conference, the Ministry of Justice said 40 firefighters from the National Security Force are ready to move to Rio from Brasília, another

large city to the north.

In an interview with Radio CBN, Gov. Sergio Cabral considered calling a state of emergency in the region. Schools, universities, and major public services were closed Wednesday, and many areas of the city remain without power.



AND THEY'RE OFF: Conservative Party leader David Cameron speaks to party faithful at Leeds City Museum on April 6. CHRISTOPHER FURLONG/GETTY IMAGES

## Hammer dropped in UK for May 6 election

CONTINUED FROM HAMMER ON P1 For his part, David Cameron stood clearly apart from the current government with the Houses of Parliament in the background, the carefully choreographed image chiming with his message of change and the notion of an outsider coming in to clean up the mess of politics and the mess left by 13 years of a Labour government—in particular Gordon Brown.

"This country deserves a lot better than five more years of Gordon Brown," he told a crowd of supporters.

"It's the most important general election for a generation. It comes down to this: You don't have to put up with another five years of Gordon Brown."

Cameron urged his party supporters to tell the voters of "a modern Conservative alternative that is about voting for hope, voting for optimism, voting for change."

He said a Conservative government would work to make people feel proud of Parliament again following the expenses scandal.

That scandal rocked popular confidence in politicians in Britain after the expense claims of several MPs revealed abuses—abuses that

Parliament itself tried to keep from getting out by fighting a disclosure under Freedom of Information legislation.

Pundits are struggling to predict a winner for the election. But shifting and conflicting polls and the fall-out from the expenses scandal have made election predictions almost impossible.

In a recent poll two out of five people said that they would rather vote for a candidate from a party they didn't like than for a candidate who had been fiddling expenses.

With polls in recent weeks putting the Conservative Party only several points ahead of the Labour Party, the nation is also facing the possibility of a minority parliament. That possibility has pushed to the fore the leader of the Liberal Democrat Party, Nick Clegg, who would become the "king-maker" in the event of a hung parliament.

Kicking off his campaign on Tuesday, Clegg steered clear of the role the party would play in a hung parliament, instead emphasizing his party as a political force in its own right and saying the election will not be the usual "two-horse race" between Labour and the Conservatives.

## Chinese leader's attendance at nuclear summit misunderstood

Hu Jintao comes to exercise power, not concede to it

By MICHAEL YOUNG  
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China's paramount leader, Hu Jintao, is scheduled to attend a Nuclear Security Summit April 12-13 in Washington, D.C. The actions of the Obama administration surrounding this visit as well as various media reports show a misunderstanding of the views of Hu and the leaders of the Chinese regime.

Hu's attendance, announced on April 1, has been reported as representing a warming of U.S.-China relations.

In recent months those relations have been tested by a U.S. arms sale to Taiwan, a meeting at the White House between President Obama and the Dalai Lama, and growing pressure by the Obama administration on the Chinese regime to allow its currency to appreciate.

The value of the Chinese yuan, which some experts believe is undervalued by as much as 40 percent, makes imports into China more expensive and Chinese exports more affordable, helping to account for the huge surpluses China piles up in trade with the United States.

Because of this, four U.S. senators are pushing a bill that would label China as a currency manipulator and request economic sanctions against China.

On April 3, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner announced that a report originally due on April 15 on whether China is engaged in currency manipulation would be delayed. The delay has prompted various speculations.

Did the treasury delay issuing the report in order to save face for Hu so that he would not be embarrassed by a challenge from the United States immediately after his participation in the summit?

Was the delay designed to give the Chinese regime some time to adjust its currency upward?

Was the delay part of a deal to get the Chinese regime on board for the effort to put new sanctions on the Iranian nuclear weapons program? The White House has denied any such connection, although the denials have not convinced observers.

In fact, regime leaders couldn't care less about congressional pressure on China's currency policies or about China being formally named a currency manipulator. Certainly they want to avoid sanctions, but they don't believe the U.S. government is prepared to endure the pain sanctions imposed on China would cause Americans.

The leadership's top concern is the regime's own domestic stability and the power of the Chinese Communist Party. The Party only holds its members together through shared economic interests, and economic growth is the Party's life support. The leadership will avoid any risk that might slow down China's economic development and increase unemployment.

Moreover, civil unrest is a daily reality in today's China. Merely labelling China a currency manipulator will not quell unrest or make the regime weaker. But appreciating the yuan will increase unemployment and unrest and threaten the regime's survival.

In the days to come, one can expect the regime to engage in endless talks and negotiations and excuses. For example, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao recently declared that China has over 200 million people unemployed—it could not possibly be expected to allow the value of its currency to rise.

Hu's attendance at next week's summit is being looked at as a concession

to the Obama administration. In fact, Hu has not conceded anything. Once here, he may still continue to show displeasure over the Taiwan arms sales and Obama's meeting with the Dalai Lama.

Hu comes not to concede to U.S. power but to exercise Chinese power. He wants to claim the international stage and let the U.S. know the world has changed. On the issue of Iran, everyone is trying to win China's support. In recent months, Beijing has received delegations from Israel, Iran, Europe, and the United States.

Hu will appear to be friendly and cooperative regarding the issue of sanctions on Iran. However, the Chinese regime has supported Iran's nuclear program with the sales of key technologies for at least a decade and Iran is China's third biggest oil supplier.

Moreover, the threat of an Iranian bomb is a huge distraction for the United States that helps prevent it from focusing on other strategic priorities, such as the rising power of China. The case of Iran is very similar to the Chinese client state of North Korea. The Chinese regime benefits by participating in endless talk about Iran, while developments on the ground continue to move forward, just as it continues to benefit from endless talks about North Korea.

In the end, any agreement the Chinese regime reaches about sanctions on Iran with the U.S. will be toothless.

Hu Jintao is coming to the summit to play Tai Chi—resolving pressure by gently yielding while defeating the enemy using its own force.

Why the U.S. government should want to play the Chinese game is not clear. Rather than condescending to Chinese leaders with the thought that the regime might be embarrassed by a statement of the facts, U.S. leaders should speak directly and honestly. If China is manipulating its currency, the U.S. should say so and back up their words with actions.

## Obama changes nuclear policy

CONTINUED FROM NUKES ON P1 The new pact will replace the START-I treaty that Presidents George H. W. Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev signed in 1991. It expired in December 2009 amidst public promises from both countries to make big reductions in their nuclear arsenals.

After returning to the United States from Prague, Obama's administration will focus on working with 46 other countries to secure any vulnerable nuclear material over the next four years. This will be a focus of what has been dubbed the Nuclear Security Summit.

On April 12 and 13, the United States will host 46 countries for the summit at the Washington

Convention Center in Washington, D.C.

As part of the summit, Obama also plans to host a number of bilateral meetings with leaders from Armenia, China, Germany, India, Jordan, Malaysia, Pakistan, South Africa, and Kazakhstan.

One leader notably absent will be the U.K.'s Prime Minister Gordon Brown, since a general election has just been called there.

During a White House press briefing on Tuesday, Press Secretary Robert Gibbs discussed the treaty and next week's summit.

"This has always been—and the president believes always should be—a bipartisan issue," said Gibbs, adding that the president came to

the issue largely through friendships with several influential people, including Sen. Dick Lugar, the most senior Republican member of the Senate, former Secretaries of State George Shultz and Henry Kissinger, former Secretary of Defense William Perry, and former Sen. Sam Nunn.

"I think the president hopes that Democrats and Republicans can work together to reduce the threat of nuclear weapons and ratify this treaty this year with the type of majorities that we've seen done so in the past," Gibbs said.

During the Cold War, Russia and the United States poured resources into nuclear arms, counting on the deterrent effect of mutual assured

destruction to prevent a world destroying war.

The current policy change of the Obama administration came mainly from the assessment of the Department of Defense's (DoD) Nuclear Posture Review. The DoD found that nuclear war between nations is no longer the greatest threat to the world, but nuclear terrorism is.

Additionally, increasing proliferation of nuclear weapons to countries increases the risks that the weapons could fall into the hands of people willing to use them in an act of terrorism.

In his Nobel Prize acceptance speech in Prague last year, Obama alluded to reaching the goal of

limiting proliferation and reducing existing stock. He spoke of the two devastating world wars in the 20th century, and why no global war has broken out since then.

"In the wake of such destruction, and with the advent of the nuclear age, it became clear to victor and vanquished alike that the world needed institutions to prevent another world war," he said.

Obama added that America led the world in constructing a structure for peacekeeping—the Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe and Japan, the United Nations, and other agreements. Yet the architecture of these plans is beginning to break down, he said.

"Terrorism has long been a tactic,

but modern technology allows a few small men with outsized rage to murder innocents on a horrific scale."

Terrorists threats are largely why the administration has chosen to focus on reducing America's and the world's nuclear arsenal, while continuing to rely on its conventional military strength.

"To stop the spread of nuclear weapons, prevent nuclear terrorism, and pursue the day when these weapons do not exist, we will work aggressively to advance every element of our comprehensive agenda—to reduce arsenals, to secure vulnerable nuclear materials, and to strengthen the NPT [non-proliferation treaty]," Obama said.