

Translated from French

**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cameroon to the
United Nations**

New York, 30 April 2010

Republic of Cameroon

Peace — Work — Fatherland

Ministry of Justice

Department of Human Rights and International Cooperation

**Submission of the Ministry of Justice concerning observations on
the scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction**

III. Rules of domestic law

There is, strictly speaking, no specific law on universal jurisdiction in Cameroon. Nonetheless, there are provisions in the Penal Code (sections 8, 10, 11 and 132 bis (e)) and the Criminal Procedure Code (sections 642 and 699) which confer on Cameroon jurisdiction over certain offences, irrespective of the nationality of perpetrator or victim or where the offences were committed.

These provisions are as follows:

Penal Code

Section 8:

“The criminal law of the Republic shall apply to:

- (a) Any offence of which one ingredient was committed in its territory;
- (b) Offences against State security, forgery of the State seal or counterfeiting of national currencies that are legal tender in the country, even when committed abroad.

However, no foreign national may be judged by the jurisdictions of the Republic in application of subsection (b) unless the foreign national was arrested in the territory of the Republic or was extradited thereto”.

Section 10:

“(1) The criminal law of the Republic shall apply to acts committed abroad by a citizen or a resident, provided that they are punishable under the legislation of the place where they were committed and that they are defined as crimes or other offences under the law of the Republic.

However, the punishment shall not be greater than that prescribed by the foreign law.

- (2) However, no citizen or resident accused of having committed an offence against an individual may be tried in a Cameroonian court pursuant to the present section, unless the Public D T.(2D)Gtrs the Pubcv217.122i05 i72 t5te sH

Criminal Procedure Code

Section 642:

“(1) Any act serving as a ground for extradition shall:

(a) by the laws of the requesting State and of Cameroon, either constitute an offence punishable with a minimum sentence of loss of liberty of not less than two (2) years for which prosecution is not barred by prescription, amnesty or otherwise; or consist of a term of loss of liberty which is still legally enforceable within six (6) months at least notwithstanding imprisonment in default of payment;

(b) by Cameroon law, constitute an ordinary law offence;

(c) from the circumstance show that extradition is not requested for political, religious or racial reasons, or based on the nationality of the person concerned.

(2) (a) Felonies and misdemeanours which are not directed against any kind of government shall be considered as common law offences and may justify extradition.

(b) Offences of universal jurisdiction provided by international conventions and ratified by Cameroon shall be considered as ordinary law offences.

Section 699:

“An offence shall be considered as having been committed in Cameroon:

(a) where one of the ingredients of the offence was committed in the Republic of Cameroon;

(b) where it is an offence of fraudulently changing the seal of the Republic of Cameroon or any counterfeiting of currency being legal tender in Cameroon;

(c) where it is an offence against the law relating to narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors;

(d) where it is an offence against the law relating to toxic wastes;

(e) where it is an offence against the law relating to terrorism;

(f) where it is an offence against the law relating to money laundering”.

From the foregoing, it can be concluded that Cameroon law provides for the prosecution of foreign nationals.
