



PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION (PGA)

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PARLIAMENTARIANS URGE THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL TO TAKE ACTION TO END IMPUNITY IN DARFUR IN SUPPORT OF TODAY'S REPORT OF THE PROSECUTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

New York, 5 December 2007: The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Mr. Luis Moreno Ocampo, presented today unequivocal evidence to the UN Security Council in connection with the continued and repeated failures of the Government of Sudan to cooperate with the ICC in the arrest and surrender of the two Sudanese leaders subject to arrest warrants of the Court and accused of having committed crimes against humanity and war crimes in the Darfur conflict, Mr. Ahmad Harun, Minister of State for Humanitarian Affairs of Sudan, and Mr. Ali Kushaib, a "Janjaweed" militia chief. The Security Council must now assess the gravity of the violation of its Resolution 1593 (2005) that triggered the ICC intervention in Darfur under Chapter VII of the UN Charter and take action to seek Sudan's compliance with its international legal obligations. Inaction by the Security Council, in the face of this evidence, might only serve to undermine the credibility and long term effectiveness of the highest political organ of the United Nations.

"Under the Rome Statute of the ICC, when the Security Council refers a situation to the Court, it is the Security Council that must take all available measures under international law to ensure that the territorial State fully cooperates with the Court", said Senator A. Raynell Andreychuk of Canada on behalf of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), a global network of legislators from 117 Parliaments that promotes the universality and effectiveness of new system of international criminal justice. "The ICC is the judicial institution of a system in which the enforcement power is a prerogative of Member States and, in this particular case, of the Security Council", affirmed the Senator who chairs the Canadian Senate's Human Rights Committee and PGA's International Law Programme.

PGA Members call on the UN and its Member States to use all the tools available to the International Community to stop the violence and put an end to impunity in Darfur. *"There is a responsibility to protect the lives and dignity of the civilian populations", recalled Senator Tadashi Inuzuka of Japan, Deputy Convenor of the PGA International Law and Human Rights Programme. "We have provided unanimous parliamentary endorsement for Japan to join the ICC and to become the 105th State Party to the Rome Statute in mid-2007 because we believe that the Court has a crucial mandate to prevent and punish the most serious crimes that shocks the conscience of humankind, such as those committed in Darfur over the past 4 years", observed the Senator from Nagasaki, who visited Darfur in August 2006.*

Law-makers from across the globe have united in voice to urge the Security Council to fulfil its mandate. *"The International Community must send a clear signal that committing atrocities such as murder, torture or rape against undefended populations is unacceptable, and that peace cannot be built on 2.5 million people forcibly displaced persons into camps in and outside Sudan", said Senator Bassey Ewa-Henshaw of Nigeria, International Councillor of PGA. "Negotiations for peace are necessary, but no sustainable solution to the conflict can be found if the Rule of Law is not reaffirmed and fundamental rights are not respected", added Dr. Ra'ed Qaqish MP of Jordan, a Board Member of PGA.*

"Peace and justice must go hand-in-hand, and the inability of the International Community to stop the massacres in Darfur must end", said Professor Vittorio Prodi MEP of Italy, who chairs the PGA Group in the European Parliament. "I call on the Security Council and its Presidency, Italy, to squarely support the request submitted by the ICC Prosecutor: The evidence that he presented today in New York does not allow any alibi for failure to act in a way that is appropriate and proportionate to the quest for justice of the victims of atrocities in Darfur", Professor Vittorio Prodi concluded, highlighting the current role and responsibility of Italy, whose Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Spatafora, also chairs the UN Security Council Sanctions' Committee.

PGA President **Senator Alain Destexhe of Belgium** reiterated his view that *"Darfur should not become another Rwanda in the face of inaction of the International Community. Today, the UN Security Council can finally take decisions that can fully support the work of the ICC, an institution that Parliamentarians world-wide are supporting because justice must become a central feature for international relations: Sudan is a Member of the United Nations and it must comply with Resolution 1593 adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter", Senator Destexhe said, thus echoing the fair demand of the ICC to the Council to fulfil its mandate. No better words than the ones delivered today by ICC Prosecutor Moreno Ocampo at the UN can describe the historic challenge for the New York-headquartered institution, which is currently hosting the V session of the ICC Assembly of States Parties: "The Security Council must ensure compliance with UNSCR 1593 (2005) and the full and immediate cooperation of the Government of Sudan through the arrest and surrender of Ahmad Harun and Ali Kushayb. International justice can thus be a contribution to ending the crimes in Darfur. The victims demand no less."*

About PGA – www.pgaction.org

Parliamentarians for Global Action is a network of more than 1300 legislators from 117 Parliaments worldwide that in the past seventeen years has promoted a permanent, effective and universal ICC. PGA members have led, launched and/or authored ratification and implementation initiatives of the Rome Statute in 60 out of the 105 States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC, including some of the more recent States that have joined the ICC – Japan in 2007; The Comoros in 2006; Kenya, the Dominican Republic and Mexico in 2005. The PGA ICC Campaign receives the support of the European Commission (EU) and of the Governments of Belgium, The Netherlands, and Switzerland, as well as core support from Denmark and Sweden.
