



PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION (PGA)

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PRE-TRIAL CHAMBER ISSUES THE FIRST ICC ARREST WARRANT AGAINST THE PRESIDENT OF SUDAN

New York/The Hague, 4 March 2009 – Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), a network of over 1300 MPs from 130 countries of all region of the world, welcomes the decision of the Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court (ICC) confirming the arrest warrant against the President of Sudan for crimes against humanity and war crimes allegedly committed in Darfur.

PGA expressed strong support for the adoption of the referral by the United Nations Security Council of the Darfur situation to the Court's jurisdiction through Resolution 1593 of 31 March 2005. Since that time, the Members of PGA have consistently called for a determined and focused intervention of the international community to stop the massacres against defenseless villages and the widespread use of rape, torture and pillage in the hostilities in Darfur. *"The time has come for justice for the victims in Darfur"*, **Senator Maria Cristina Perceval of Argentina** stated on behalf of the PGA International Law and Human Rights Programme, of which she is the Convenor. *"Even if the International Criminal Court's arrest warrant is not a panacea that will solve the conflict"*, added the Senator, who also chairs the Defense and National Security Committee, *"it is an unavoidable consequence to the widespread and systematic atrocities that have taken place. How can anyone plan, order or even simply tolerate the commission of hundreds of deadly attacks and still remain unaccountable?"*

Senator Raynell Andreychuk of Canada, a long-standing Board Member of PGA, emphasized that *"Sudan is under a binding legal obligation to cooperate with the ICC, and in refusing to arrest and surrender the first two individuals charged with crimes against humanity in Darfur, Janjaweed militia leader Mr. Kurshaib and Humanitarian Affairs Minister Mr. Harun, has so far failed to comply with UNSC resolution 1593. If the ICC makes a judicial determination on the non-cooperation by Sudan, the international community will look to the UN Security Council to take all necessary steps so that those senior government officials of Sudan who have so far ignored the decision of the Council will cooperate with the Court?"*, Senator Andreychuk concluded.

Another PGA Board Member, **Senator Tadashi Inuzuka of Japan**, who visited Darfur in 2006, recalled that *"in May 2008 the multi-party group of PGA Japan agreed to support targeted sanctions against those individuals bearing responsibility for the continued non-compliance of the Government of Sudan with the obligation of cooperate with the ICC. Measures could include the freezing and seizing of assets, the prohibition of doing business and other economic or trade relations with individuals identified as those impeding cooperation with the ICC, increased support for INTERPOL and the ICC itself to monitor and track the activities carried out by these individuals, as well as any legitimate action that could reinforce the role of democratic forces within Sudan that promote the full respect of human rights, justice, peace and development through non-violent means."*

Sen. Bassey Ewa-Henshaw of Nigeria, President of PGA stated in reaction to today's Decision: *"Sudan is under a binding obligation from the Security Council to cooperate with the ICC."*

REFERENCES

31 March 2005: PGA Press Release and Commentary on the Adoption of UNSC 1593-

http://www.iccnw.org/documents/PGA_DARref_01Apr05.pdf

14 May 2008: PGA Japan, Justice for Darfur Resolution-<http://www.pgaction.org/uploadedfiles/PGA%20Website%2003-2-1%20Tokyo%20Resolution%20on%20Darfur.pdf>

4 March 2009: Media Statement of "Justice for Darfur"-www.justice4darfur.org/