



Parliamentarians for Global Action
Parlamentarios para la Acción Global
Action Mondiale des Parlementaires
برلمانيون من أجل التحرك العالمي

PGA's Press Release - For Immediate Release

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**PARLIAMENT OF MALAYSIA AND PGA CO-HOST SEMINAR ON
THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC)**

30 JULY – MERIDIEN HOTEL, 9AM – 5:30PM FOLLOWED BY A PRESS CONFERENCE

Kuala Lumpur / New York / The Hague 30 July, 2015:

New strategies were developed to extend the tools for protecting citizens from the most heinous crimes via a swift accession of both Malaysia and Indonesia to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) at a seminar, co-hosted by the Parliament of Malaysia, with opening remarks by Parliament's Deputy Speaker **Hon. Datuk Ronald Kiandee** and Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), held in Kuala Lumpur today. Exchanges amongst active MPs like **Hon. M. Kula Segaran** from Malaysia, and like **Hon. M. A. Syamsuddin** and **Hon. Nurhayati Ali Assegaf** from Indonesia and experts like an ICC judge, academia and civil society took place in this Seminar which received the support of Cabinet Minister **Nazri Abdul Aziz**, (chair of the PGA national group). The EU Ambassador in Malaysia, **Mr. Luc Vandebron** delivered his closing remarks to the seminar.

Hon. M. Kulasegaran, MP Malaysia, PGA Member, said during the seminar: *"Malaysia is long overdue to accede to the Rome Statute and has to show know finally its strong commitment to the Rule of Law. I call upon the leadership of Malaysia to protect civilians from impunity for perpetrators of international crimes by joining the permanent structures of the International Criminal Court without further ado. Looking at the globalizing threats that face our citizens, this action has to be taken now! Joining the ICC, in which this region is under-represented, means strengthening the international legal order. It would send a signal of compassion from the people of Malaysia to the victims of international crimes all over the world."*

The Asia-Pacific region remains under-represented in the Rome Statute system, which encouraged **PGA in cooperation with the NGO Coalition for the ICC (CICC)** to organize this Seminar with a particular focus on Malaysia and Indonesia, who both play leading roles in securing stability and peace in the region and in the promotion of the fight against impunity, democracy and good governance under the Rule of Law.

Hon. A. Syamsuddin, MP Indonesia, PGA Member, said during the seminar: *“The new government of Indonesia should live up to its policy objectives of strengthening the Rule of Law in our country. I call upon the government to accede to the Rome Statute soon, for it will strengthen our national legal order and any further delays is a lost opportunity for justice. Indonesian youngsters who consider joining the so-called jihad with ISIS should be discouraged by educating them that there can be no impunity for the horrible crimes committed by this group. Indonesia is the largest Muslim democracy in the world: we should ensure that crimes are separated from religion. Joining the ICC would be an important signal that we don’t tolerate crimes being committed in the name of religion.”*

The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) has the benefit that it not only protects civilian population during armed conflict but also, through the notion of crimes against humanity, from crimes committed in a widespread or systematic manner during peacetime. Moreover, civilian populations are protected from attacks by other nation-states through the deterrent effect stemming from the prohibition of the crime of aggression.

About PGA

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) is the largest transnational network of Members of Parliaments from all regions of the world who, in their individual capacity, support the effective operation of the ICC and domestic jurisdictions to end impunity. The PGA network is assisted by a small secretariat that facilitates the cooperation and exchange by member MPs to achieve these goals and provides technical cooperation on legal advice and advocacy.

Members of PGA have contributed to 76 of the 123 ratifications of, or accession to the Rome Statute to date. PGA is a member of the Steering Committee of the Coalition for the ICC. The PGA Campaign for the Universality and Effectiveness of the Rome Statute system receives support from:

The European Union (*European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights*)



The Governments of the Netherlands, Switzerland, Estonia, Liechtenstein and



PGA receives core support from the Governments of Sweden and Denmark.

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