



**STRATEGY MEETING ON ACCOUNTABILITY FOR MASS-ATROCITIES AND
STRATEGIES TO COUNTER VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND PROTECT**

CIVILIANS:

Amman, Jordan

27 July 2015

I. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE OF THIS PROJECT

In Northern Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and several other countries in Middle East and North African (MENA) Region the civilian population is constantly under attack, minorities and dissenters are targeted for elimination and a culture of impunity and lawlessness provide fertile ground for the repetition of mass-atrocities and the continuation or escalation of armed conflict.

Putting an end to the cycle of violence and impunity is a *condicio sine qua non* for a credible and sustainable stabilization process, the acceptance of peace-agreements by victims and affected community, and the halt to an endless spiral of injustice, recrimination, revenge, retaliation and reprisal.

While most Governments in the (MENA) Region have expressed support for the International Criminal Court (ICC), few have taken the necessary steps to ratify or accede to its founding treaty, the Rome Statute. As of today, 123 State are parties to the Rome Statute, but in the MENA region, only Jordan in 2002, Tunisia in 2011 and Palestine in 2015 have decided to join the system of the ICC.

In light of the dramatic situation in the region since the uprising in Syria in 2011 and the spill-over of conflict into Iraq and Lebanon since June 2014, where there are evidence of crimes against humanity, war crimes and even genocide and aggression being committed, putting an end to impunity and breaking the cycle of violence and death are absolute imperatives. Jordan has also been affected by the crimes committed by ISIS while suffering from an enormous refugee flow, which is applying further pressure on the Authorities and the population.

Those threats to the stability of the region highlight the work of the global network of PGA to mobilise the International Community to stop the mass-atrocities committed in the region and world-wide. Within the framework of a comprehensive response to this threat, ending impunity for atrocities and ensuring accountability of their perpetrators should be a priority through the ratification of the Rome Statute. Seeking to merely destroy or eliminate ISIS or terrorists through targeted-killings and military action would continue to deny victims from access to justice and truth, and would continue to be used by propaganda to generate emulation of 'martyrdom' and reinforce the recruitment of foreign and domestic fighters. Comprehensive and multifaceted approaches to counter violent extremism are indeed necessary to ensure the safety the region, focusing on putting an end to the expansion of the number of fighters and ensuring that they face justice for the crimes they have committed, at the national and international level, through the ratification of the Rome Statute allowing for the effective intervention of the ICC.

Since 2006, PGA has shared information and created awareness on the Rome Statute system among politicians from the region, who have participated in a number of events of the PGA ICC Campaign, including the Amman session of the *PGA Working Group on Universality of the Rome Statute in the MENA Region* in October 2014 and the *8th Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the ICC & the Rule of Law* held in Rabat, Morocco, in December 2014.

PGA has thus organised on 27 July a follow-up Strategy meeting of those two events with Parliamentarians from Jordan and Iraq to discuss on **Accountability for Mass-Atrocities and Strategies to Counter Violent Extremism and Protect Civilians in the MENA region.**

II. AGENDA - Monday 27 July – House of Representatives of Jordan

- 9.45-10.30 **Meeting** with H.E. Ms. **Joanna Wronecka**, Head of the European Union Delegation to the Kingdom of Jordan
- 10.30-11.00 **Meeting** with Mr. Anastasios Frangos, Second Secretary and Head of Operations and Mr. Mathieu Goodstein, Programme Manager, EU Delegation to the Republic of Iraq
- 13.00-14.30 **Lunch** offered by PGA to participants of the Meeting
- 14.30-17.30 **Strategy Meeting on Accountability for Mass-Atrocities and Strategies to Counter Violent Extremism and Protect Civilians in the MENA region**

III. PARTICIPANTS

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENTS

Iraq

1. **Hon. Faig Al-Sheak Ali, MP**
PGA Member

2. **Hon. Vian Dakhil, MP**
PGA Member

Jordan

Senate

3. **Sen. Hasan Abu-Nimah**
PGA Member

4. **Sen. H.E. Mr. Abdeed Jalamdeh**
PGA Member

House of Representatives

5. **Dr. Hazem Qashou, MP**
Chair, Committee of Foreign Affairs
PGA Member

6. **Mr. Abdil Al-Odat, MP**
Chair, Legal Committee

7. **Ms. Rula Alhroob, MP**
Chair of the Human Rights Committee

8. **Mr. Jamil Nimri, MP**
PGA Member

9. **Mr. Mahmoud Awwad Al-Kharabsheh, MP***
PGA Member

PGA SECRETARIAT

10. **Dr. David Donat Cattin**
Secretary General, PGA

11. **Ms. Maïa Trujillo**
Senior Programme Officer
International Law and Human Rights Programme

About PGA

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) is the largest transnational network of 1200 Members of Parliaments from 142 countries from all regions of the world who, in their individual capacity, support the effective operation of the ICC and domestic jurisdictions to end impunity. Members of PGA have contributed to 76 of the 123 ratifications or accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and to implementation processes in more than 32 countries worldwide. PGA receives the

core support of Sweden and Denmark and the ICC Campaign receives the support of the European Union, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Estonia, Lichtenstein and Humanity United.

For more information about our work in Iraq and Lebanon, please contact:

Dr. David Donat Cattin, Secretary General, PGA. EMAIL: donat@pgaction.org PHONE °: +16462875479

Ms. Maia Trujillo, International Law and Human Rights Program, PGA

EMAIL: maia.trujillo@pgaction.org PHONE N°: +34-6-0104-7712