



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

### ICC President in Malaysia to meet Members of the Government and Parliament

*The Hague / New York / Malaysia April 6, 2017*- Honorable Minister Mohamed Nazri Bin Abdul Aziz, in his capacity as Chair of the PGA Malaysia National Group, invited Judge Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi, the President of the International Criminal Court (ICC), to Malaysia today to discuss the process of Malaysia's accession to the Rome Statute. Judge Fernández de Gurmendi will deliver a keynote address at the Roundtable Discussion today, which will highlight the important role of the Rome Statute of the ICC in protecting human rights and providing an international justice system to implement the Rule of Law.

Honorable Minister Mohamed Nazri Bin Abdul Aziz, Minister of Tourism and Culture, Chair of the PGA Malaysia National Group:

How can there be peace if authors of mass-atrocities can commit the most serious crimes with impunity and without restraint? The ICC exercises jurisdiction over territories or nationals of States that accept to be bound by the Rome Statute: This did *not* happen with Syria and Iraq, and the mass-atrocities of ISIS and other actors are occurring in total impunity-zone. Similarly, Myanmar did not ratify the Rome Statute, and the Rohingya population is being targeted by widespread or systematic attacks that might be qualified as crimes against humanity, but the ICC cannot exercise its jurisdiction. If Malaysia were to deposit its instrument of accession and confirm the 2011 Cabinet decision to join the Rome Statute this would send a strong signal to the international community that all states shall unite their efforts against impunity for mass-atrocity crimes.

H.E. Justice Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi, President of the ICC:

I am very pleased to visit Malaysia and to have the opportunity to contribute to informed consideration of Rome Statute accession through dialogue with the relevant officials. The ICC is an integral part of the international community's response to challenges that threaten international peace, security, development and human rights, including atrocities committed by non-State actors. Unfortunately, the participation of Asian States is much lower than other regions, which undermines the effectiveness of the system. Malaysia's support as a regional leader would be tremendously important in this respect. We need to strengthen the global justice system in order to ensure accountability and contribute to preventing the most serious international crimes, and provide remedy to victims for the harm suffered.

Honorable Kula Segaran, Secretary of the PGA Malaysia National Group:

Progress comes with patience, and despite the concerns regarding sovereignty, Malaysia is advancing in the direction of a future without impunity. It is our hope that the victims of atrocious acts will receive justice, and the future generations will be protected under the Rome Statute. Acceding to the Statute will enable Malaysia to join the global effort in protecting the most inherent rights to human beings. Since Malaysia has yet to become a member of the ICC, atrocities on Malaysian territories, such as the MH 17 flight, may be committed without international justice consequences. By becoming a member of the ICC, victims can gain access to justice and apply for reparations before the ICC as the "Court of last resort", which complements the domestic Court's system and intervenes only if domestic remedies are unavailable.

The ICC expands across the world, seeking to diminish impunity and create an atrocity-free international community. So far, 124 states from all regions of the world have joined the Rome Statute, including Cambodia, Japan, Mongolia, Philippines and South Korea. The roundtable discussion serves to identify and overcome existing obstacles for Malaysia to join the ICC. Through this, Malaysian parliamentarians and leaders will demonstrate their commitment to international justice and the fight against impunity.

PGA Board Member Hon. M. Kula Segaran has been a primary advocate for Malaysia's accession to the Rome Statute. He believes that justice for victims must be secured in national and international fora and that the more countries join the ICC, the easier it is to prosecute future perpetrators of international crimes.

### **About PGA**

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) is a non-governmental, non-partisan international network of approximately 1,400 legislators in 143 elected parliaments around the globe that informs and mobilizes parliamentarians to advocate for human rights and the rule of law, democracy, human security, non-discrimination and gender equality.

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