



## PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION

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CONTACT: PGA Int'l Law Programme  
Tel: (212) 687-7755 x108 / (39) 333-166 0309  
Fax: (212) 687-8409  
E-mail: [donat@pgaction.org](mailto:donat@pgaction.org); [s.albulushi@pgaction.org](mailto:s.albulushi@pgaction.org)

### **PARLIAMENTARY GROUP URGES GOVERNMENTS TO OPPOSE RENEWAL OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION: Renewing Resolution 1487 Sends Wrong Message about Accountability for International Crimes**

*NEW YORK; June 17, 2004* – Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) calls on UN Member States this week to oppose the renewal of Security Council resolution 1487 requested by the United States and to make strong principled statements in support of international justice at a public UN meeting. Renewed last year as resolution 1487, the resolution aims to suspend for a 12-month period investigations or prosecutions by the International Criminal Court (ICC) of peacekeepers from non-States Parties to the Court who may have committed genocide, war crimes or crimes against humanity.

The Iraq resolution, which received unanimous approval by the Security Council on June 8, explicitly notes “the commitment of all forces promoting the maintenance of security and stability in Iraq to act in accordance with international law, including obligations under international humanitarian law, and to cooperate with relevant international organizations.”

“For the Security Council to adopt, just one week later, a resolution that strives to provide immunity for certain individuals from international law would be a blatant contradiction of its own actions, signalling a *lack* of support for relevant international organizations like the ICC, whose goal is complementary to that of the United Nations in its efforts to protect human rights,” said Dr. David Donat Cattin, Legal Advisor of PGA.

“Perhaps most discouraging is the message a renewal would send to the people of Iraq, who themselves are emerging from a long period of gross violations of human rights and are eagerly awaiting the restoration of the rule of law,” continued Dr. Donat Cattin. “If the international community, led by the United States, permits immunity from ICC prosecution for some individuals, who is to stop the new Iraqi leadership from requesting similar privileges?”

Parliamentarians from all regions are concerned about the efforts to renew the resolution. In Brazil, PGA member Deputy Orlando Fantazzini MP tabled a Congressional declaration urging President Lula to oppose the resolution. In the United Kingdom, MPs are questioning the Foreign Office on the negative implications of the resolution. In a debate of the Chamber of Deputies of Chile on May 17, 2004, Deputy Gabriel Ascencio said, “What I wish to point out is that this resolution is politically unacceptable and that our government must oppose it. Resolution 1487 creates a class of persons with impunity from international justice, it contravenes the UN Charter, and most importantly, it encourages certain people to commit acts that are outlawed by international law.”

As suggested by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in a statement last year, the legitimacy of the Security Council itself could also be called into question should the renewal of the resolution

become routine on annual basis. “Security Council members now have the opportunity to show the world that it stands for equality before the law and the pursuit of justice. At a time when the world is looking to the UN for leadership, this would be a very welcome message,” said Senator Alain Destexhe of Belgium, Convenor of the PGA International Law programme.

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PGA IS AN ASSOCIATION OF OVER 1350 LEGISLATORS FROM 110 COUNTRIES UNITED TO PROMOTE SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL PROBLEMS. PGA MEMBERS HAVE SUPPORTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ICC SINCE 1989 WHEN A.N.R. ROBINSON, THEN PRIME MINISTER OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO AND CONVENOR OF PGA’S INTERNATIONAL LAW PROGRAMME, INTRODUCED A UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT. SINCE THE ADOPTION OF THE ROME STATUTE OF THE ICC ON 17 JULY 1998, PGA MPs HAVE PROMOTED THE RATIFICATION AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STATUTE, WHICH ENTERED INTO FORCE ON JULY 1, 2002.