



REDRESS
Seeking Reparation for Torture Survivors

AFRICAN RIGHTS
Working for Justice



PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION

NGO Roundtable on the Fight against Impunity and victims' access to justice

Organised by Redress, African Rights, Parliamentarians for Global Action and the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC)

*Tuesday, November 20th, 2007, 1-3 pm
Serena Hotel, Kigali, Rwanda*

The Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC), Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), African Rights and Redress, with the support of Johan van Hecke (Member of the European Parliament) and Denis Polisi (Vice- President of the Rwandan Parliament) will hold a side-event in the margins of the ACP¹-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA), taking place in Kigali, Rwanda, from 17 to 22 November 2007.

The event will bring together parliamentarians from the ACP and European countries, experts in international criminal law, civil society, as well as representatives of EU institutions. Participants will seek to identify steps to take in the fight against impunity for serious international crimes and to ensure justice for victims of those crimes in the regions.

To that end, the effectiveness of existing international and national accountability mechanisms will be analysed, with a focus on victims' means to access justice.

Both the preamble² and art. 11.6³ of the revised Cotonou agreement include a clear commitment of ACP and EU states to combat impunity and promote justice through the ICC. The roundtable

¹ ACP: Africa, Caribbean, Pacific

² "Reaffirming that the most serious crimes of concern to the international community must not go unpunished and that their effective prosecution must be ensured by taking measures at the national level and by enhancing global collaboration; Considering that the establishment and effective functioning of the International Criminal Court constitute an important development for peace and international justice."

³ "In promoting the strengthening of peace and international justice, the parties reaffirm their determination to: (a) Share experience on the adoption of legal adjustments required to allow for the ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and (b) Fight against international crime in accordance with international law, giving due regard to the Rome Statute. The parties shall seek to take steps towards ratifying and implementing the Rome Statute and related instruments."

will thus also consider the role that parliamentarians can play in this process and how they can contribute to step up the fight against impunity in the region, not least through the effective implementation of the revised Cotonou agreement.

The event will be held in English and French; simultaneous translation from and into the two languages will be provided.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

- 1. Welcome (Denis Polisi, Vice President of the Rwandan Parliament) – 5 mn**
- 2. The need for justice from a victim's perspective (TBC) – 10 mn**
- 3. International and national accountability mechanisms – 30 mn**
 - ICC (Luisa Mascia, CICC)
 - Universal Jurisdiction (Juergen Schurr, REDRESS)
 - The role of NGOs in the investigations and prosecutions of serious international crimes (Rakiya Omaar, African Rights)
- 4. Strengthening the fight against impunity: what can ACP-EU parliamentarians do? – (Jo Leinen, MEP/PGA) 10 min**
- 5. Discussion: 60 min – Chaired by Johan van Hecke and Denis Polisi. Issues to consider:**
 - The fight against impunity as an essential component of the EU development policy: measures available to the European Commission and to EU MS.
 - The importance of outreach to the communities most affected by the crime.
 - Victims' reparations.