



Parliamentarians for Global Action

For Immediate Release:

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PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION WELCOMES THE ARREST OF GENERAL RADKO MLADIC

Arrest Warrants executed after 16 years sends a warning to other "war crimes fugitives" world-wide

The Hague/New York, 26 May 2011: Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) welcomes the arrest of General Radko Mladic in Serbia earlier today and calls for his prompt surrender to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), where indictments for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes have been pending against him since 1995.

One of the most prominent fugitives from international justice, General Mladic's arrest reaffirms the principle that inspired the creation of a new system of accountability by the UN Security Council for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda as well as by the 115 States Parties to the Rome Statute for the permanent International Criminal Court (ICC): to put an end to impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern and, therefore, seek to deter their reoccurrence.

"No one can escape from the force of law when it is applied in the name of defenseless civilian victims: Political will must be appropriately exercised to enforce Court's decision" affirmed PGA Executive Committee Member **Mr. Coskun Coruz, MP** (Netherlands) in The Hague. *"Mladic was the mastermind behind the massacre of almost 8,000 Muslims of Bosnia in Srebrenica, as other ICTY judgments already handed down have established: He will now have the right to defend himself in open Court"*, Mr. Coruz concluded.

PGA Executive Committee **Ms. Ermelinda Meksi, MP** (Albania), stressed the value of precedence of this arrest: *"All fugitives from international justice, whether Heads of States, political leaders or senior military commanders must be brought to justice. Under general international law, as restated by the Rome Statute of the ICC, no immunity can exist for anyone responsible for the most serious international crimes"*, Ms. Meksi affirmed with emphasis in respect to her region.

The Convenor of PGA's International Law and Human Rights Programme/ICC Campaign, **Dep. Alain Destexhe** (Belgium), welcomed the efforts of Serbia and the International community to secure today's arrest and urged *"all Member States of the United Nations to cooperate in the arrest and surrender to the ICC, ICTY and ICTR of all suspected war criminals."* Alain Destexhe underscored *"the commitment of the global network of PGA to work with all States and international organizations that are willing to commit themselves to further entrenching and consolidating the Rule of Law, starting with a truly independent judiciary and effective investigative, prosecutorial and law-enforcement agencies."*

In a statement on behalf of PGA, the Chair of PGA's International Council, **Dr. Ruth Wijdenbosch, MP** (Suriname's Deputy Speaker) said: *"The arrest of General Radko Mladic, 16 years after the first warrant for his arrest was issued for international crimes he is alleged to have committed, is a powerful reminder to all fugitives from international justice that they can run, but they cannot forever hide - we all now live in a global community where impunity for such crimes is no longer tolerated."*

About PGA:

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) is a network of members of parliament from all regions of the world who, in their individual capacity, have pledged to mobilize political will for the effective operation of the ICC and domestic jurisdictions to end impunity. Members of PGA have contributed to 69 of the 115 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 Commission (EC) and the Governments of Belgium, The Netherlands, and Switzerland.