



PGA UN NEWSLETTER

June 2011

1. HIV/AIDS

On 7th June, 2011 the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1983 (2011) wherein it addressed the enormous importance of the challenges still confronted by HIV/AIDS as well as specifically mentioning the disproportionate burden of HIV AIDS on women and how this continues to represent a major impediment to gender equality and empowerment of women.

Further information on this UNSC Resolution may be viewed at:

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2011/sc10272.doc.htm>

All Member States of the UN also adopted the 2011 United Nations Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS following the conclusion of the High Level General Assembly Meeting on HIV/AIDS

Further information on this may be found at:

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/744458>

This UNSC resolution and UNGA Political Declaration by all UN Member States is of obvious importance/relevance in the context of PGA's SDP Programme which has organized a number of Workshops on HIV/AIDS prevention in Pakistan in recent years.

2. Sudan

On 27th June 2011, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1990 (2011) pertaining to the situation in Abyei, Sudan where there have been very troubling reports of atrocities committed in the past two months. The Resolution, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to "ensure that effective human rights monitoring is carried out" and the results were included in his reports to the 15-nation body, within the next 30 days, and every 60 days thereafter. The Council plans to review the status of UNISFA no later than three months from today.

Further information on this UNSC Resolution may be viewed at:

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2011/sc10298.doc.htm>

This UNSC resolution is of relevance in the context of PGA's ILHR Programme which has been monitoring closely the reports of renewed ethnic cleansing in this region of Sudan by the Bashir regime.

3. Afghanistan

On 28th June 2011, a top UN envoy urged peaceful resolution of Afghan legislative crisis and called on all parties to conduct themselves responsibly, using only political means and careful to avoid public unrest, after a special court ruled recently to replace a quarter of the members of Parliament due to fraud charges.

"In this critical moment for Afghanistan's democratic governance, it is essential that Afghans themselves reach a political solution to this institutional impasse underpinned by the Constitution and democratic principles and move forward," stated Staffan de Mistura, the Secretary-General's Special Representative and head of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

The week before, a special court set up by a decree of President Hamid Karzai ordered that 62 lawmakers elected in the September 2010 election vacate their seats in the 249-seat Wolesi Jirga, or lower house of Afghanistan's Parliament. The ruling has reportedly been condemned as unconstitutional and illegal by Afghan officials and international observers.

As an international association of parliamentarians, PGA is closely monitoring this 'legislator specific' development in Afghanistan

4. Bahrain

On 24th June, 2011 the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights stated that the recent trials in Bahrain bear the marks of political persecution.

Further information on this is available at:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=38832&Cr=Bahrain&Cr1=#>

UNSG Ban Ki Moon expressed similar sentiments a day earlier:

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2011/sgsm13667.doc.htm>

With an active PGA Membership in the Kingdom of Bahrain, PGA continues to monitor the situation in Bahrain with some trepidation and deep concern

5. Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

On 24th June 2011, the UN Special Envoy with responsibility for combatting sexual violence during conflict expressed outrage at fresh reports of mass rapes in the South Kivu province of DRC

Further information on this is available at:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=38843&Cr=sexual+violence&Cr1=>

PGA's ILHR Programme is heavily vested in the DRC and has played a prominent role in seeking parliamentary approval to ICC implementing legislation (the Rome Statute addresses gender-related crimes)