



Parliamentarians for Global Action
Acción Mundial de Parlamentarios
Action Mondiale des Parlementaires

PRESS RELEASE

The Central African Republic National Group of Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), a parliamentary network acting for the promotion of the International Criminal Court and the Rule of Law, on behalf of 54 PGA members in a Legislature consisting of 104 elected MPs, is deeply concerned about the seriousness of the political military crisis that started on December 10, 2012, in the north-eastern Central African Republic, which in three weeks resulted in the sudden and brutal occupation of northern and central-eastern regions of our country by the elements of the SELEKA rebellion: This occupation is leading to a dramatic split of the country into two zones.

Today, many civilians from the occupied areas have been affected by tragic collateral damages: death of human beings, population's displacement in the fields and forests, widespread looting of the economic infrastructure and vandalism of the properties of international NGOs, etc. Several sources reported violence towards ethnic minorities as well as the recruitment of children into the ranks of armed militias.

PGA's Central African Republic National Group reminds all parties of the international obligations and commitments to which the Central African Republic has subscribed, particularly the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in respect of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity as well as the various instruments relating to the protection of the rights of the child.

PGA's Central African Republic National Group welcomes the involvement of the African Union as well as the strong commitment of States of The Economic Community of Central African States in the search for a politically negotiated solution to this crisis, in conformity with the principles of International Law. It also welcomes the courageous decision of the President of the Republic, the Head of State, to initiate the negotiations of Libreville without any delay or condition. These talks, opened to armed groups as well as to other actors in public life, will support in the drawing up of conditions for finding a comprehensive and coordinated political solution to this crisis.

Aware of the resilience and above all the untainted will of the people Central African Republic to live together on the land of the late President Barthélemy Boganda, PGA's Central African Republic National Group is indeed convinced that by greatly involving all stakeholders of public and political life in the forthcoming negotiations in an inclusive forum, we could permanently exorcise "the Central African evil". This is why we launch a genuine plea to negotiators to ensure that all political parties, all political-military wings, **but also identified parliamentary groups and networks and civil society in all its diversity** are involved in the final negotiations to save peace and rebuild the Central African Republic nation.

PGA's Central African Republic National Group engages, as parliamentary network committed to the defense and promotion of the Rule of Law, to fully play its role as moderator in the preparatory phase as well as during these important talks.

The President of PGA's Central African Republic National Group,

Hon. Marcel DJIMASSE
Former Minister, Deputy of the National Assembly