



MEDIA STATEMENT

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) expresses deep concern at recent wave of arrests of Parliamentarians and civil society representatives in Chad

The Hague/New York/N'Djamena, 23 May 2013: Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) expresses profound concern and condemnation at the arrest of one of its Member-Parliamentarians and the arrest warrant issued against another member in Chad in the context of the wave of arrests and intimidation against Parliamentarians, pro-democracy activists, journalists, army officers and civilians since the beginning of May by Chadian authorities¹.

Following an alleged Coup d'Etat attempt on 1st May, which reportedly resulted in the killing of eight persons, several Parliamentarians, including PGA Member Saleh Makki, MP (leader of the opposition party PUR), have been arrested while others have been subject to arrest warrants, including PGA Member Saleh Kebzabo, MP (leader of the opposition party UNDR) for allegedly having participated in the “destabilisation of the Republic” even in the absence of the required authorisation prescribed by the Constitution for the waiver of their parliamentary immunity².

Parliamentarians for Global Action fully supports the statement of the Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. Haroun Kabadi, MP, who firmly called upon the Government to respect the constitutional procedures relating to the arrest of Parliamentarians. In this respect, PGA calls on the competent Chadian authorities to ensure that fair, impartial and genuine investigations and prosecutions are carried out in order to shed light on the alleged events that led to the issuance of the arrest warrants.

Given the current tense climate in Chad, Chadian authorities must ensure that these arrests and arrest warrants do not lead to an escalation of violence and that Members of Parliament as well as civil society representatives continue to enjoy their most basic human rights, including freedom of expression and the right to a fair trial.

PGA stands in solidarity with the PGA National Group in the National Assembly of Chad and expresses its strong support for the people and the representatives of the democratic institutions of Chad.

PGA is currently engaged, within the framework of its *Campaign for the Effectiveness and Universality of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) System*, in promoting the full implementation of the Rome Statute in the domestic legal order of Chad.

On behalf of the PGA Executive Committee,

Dep. Mamadou Lamine Thiam (Senegal), Convenor, Peace and Democracy Programme

Hon. Irene Addo, MP (Ghana), Deputy-Convenor, International Law and Human Rights Programme

About PGA

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) is the largest transnational network of Members of Parliaments from all regions of the world who, in their individual capacity, support the effective operation of the ICC and domestic jurisdictions to end impunity.

¹ Reference is made to the initial reports and position taken by FIDH (www.fidh.org/tchad-vague-de-repression-sur-fond-de-tensions-militaires-13248) and Amnesty International (www.amnesty.org/en/news/new-wave-arrests-and-harassment-chad-s-opposition-2013-05-09). See also the initial media coverage from The Guardian (www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/may/02/chad-coup-foiled-government) and Le Monde (http://abonnes.lemonde.fr/afrique/article/2013/05/02/le-tchad-affirme-avoir-dejoue-une-tentative-de-destabilisation-du-pouvoir_3169346_3212.html).

² Reference is made to the above media sources and Radio France International (www.rfi.fr/afrique/20130520-tchad-assemblee-fait-resistance-deby).

Members of PGA have contributed to 76 of the 122 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, European Union and the Governments of The Netherlands and Switzerland, as well as from Humanity United.

The PGA Complementarity Project in DRC, Uganda and Kenya is supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Contacts of the International Law and Human Rights Programme & Peace and Democracy Programme, PGA:

In The Hague

Dr. David Donat Cattin

Ms. Maia Trujillo

+31.70.360.4433

donat@pgaction.org

maia.trujillo@pgaction.org

In Accra

Mrs. Irene Torshie Addo, MP

+233-302-664530

iaddo70@yahoo.com

In Dakar

Dep. Mamadou Lamine Thiam

+221.77.821.6801

mlthiam@yahoo.com

On-line access to PGA ICC Campaign:

<http://www.pgaction.org/countries/africa/chad.html>

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