



## PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION (PGA)

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### **PGA WELCOMES DECISION OF INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT IN CONNECTION WITH PRESIDENT OF SUDAN**

PRE-TRIAL CHAMBER ISSUES THE FIRST ICC ARREST WARRANT AGAINST A SITTING HEAD OF STATE

*The Hague/New York, 4 March 2009* – Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), a network of over 1300 MPs from 130 countries of all region of the world, welcomes the decision of the Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court (ICC) confirming the arrest warrant against the President of Sudan for crimes of crimes against humanity and war crimes allegedly committed in Darfur.

PGA expressed strong support for the adoption of the referral by the United Nations Security Council of the Darfur situation to the Court's jurisdiction through Resolution 1593 of 31 March 2005. Since that time, the Members of PGA have consistently called for a determined and focused intervention of the international community to stop the massacres against defenseless villages and the widespread use of rape, torture and pillage in the hostilities in Darfur. "*The time has come for justice for the victims in Darfur*", **Senator Maria Cristina Perceval of Argentina** stated on behalf of the PGA International Law and Human Rights Programme, of which she is the Convenor. "*Even if the International Criminal Court's arrest warrant is not a panacea that will solve the conflict*", added the Senator, who also chairs the Defense and National Security Committee, "*it is an unavoidable consequence to the widespread and systematic atrocities that have taken place. How can anyone plan, order or even simply tolerate the commission of hundreds of deadly attacks and still remain unaccountable?*"

**Senator Raynell Andreychuk of Canada**, a long-standing Board Member of PGA, emphasized that "*Sudan is under a binding legal obligation to cooperate with the ICC, and in refusing to arrest and surrender the first two individuals charged with crimes against humanity in Darfur, Janjaweed militia leader Mr. Kurshaib and Humanitarian Affairs Minister Mr. Harun, has so far failed to comply with UNSC resolution 1593. If the ICC makes a judicial determination on the non-cooperation by Sudan, the international community will look to the UN Security Council to take all necessary steps so that those senior government officials of Sudan who have so far ignored the decision of the Council will cooperate with the Court*", Senator Andreychuk concluded.

Another PGA Board Member, **Senator Tadashi Inuzuka of Japan**, who visited Darfur in 2006, recalled that "*in May 2008 the multi-party group of PGA Japan agreed to support targeted sanctions against those individuals bearing responsibility for the continued non-compliance of the Government of Sudan with the obligation of cooperate with the ICC. Measures could include the freezing and seizing of assets, the prohibition of doing business and other economic or trade relations with individuals identified as those impeding cooperation with the ICC, increased support for INTERPOL and the ICC itself to monitor and track the activities carried out by these individuals, as well as any legitimate action that could reinforce the role of democratic forces within Sudan that promote the full respect of human rights, justice, peace and development through non-violent means.*"

At a meeting held in Jakarta, **Indonesia**, in February 2009, Parliamentarians from various political parties agreed that their country – the 4<sup>th</sup> most populated, the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest democracy and 1st Muslim-majority country in the world – should accede to the Rome Statute of the ICC as early as possible. **Dr. Theo Sambuaga MP** (Chair, Defence and Foreign Affairs Committee) and **Ms. Nurshyabani Katijasungkana, MP** (Deputy Chair, Legislative Council) issued a joint statement in which they stressed the importance of the ICC as a tool to fight impunity and prevent atrocities. "*Justice is not an option and is not negotiable if the goal is respect for the life and the human dignity of the civilian population, especially its most vulnerable segments, women and children*", the Indonesian PGA Group leaders said, thus embracing the view that justice and peace among peoples and nations should go hand-in-hand.

"*This Arrest Warrant is a powerful tool to deter political and military leaders around the globe from committing future atrocities*", **Sen. Bassey Ewa-Henshaw of Nigeria**, President of PGA stated in reaction to today's Decision: "*Using the State or any other organizational structure to perpetrate mass-atrocities will not be tolerated anymore, even if the alleged perpetrator is a sitting Head of State, who is, after all, entrusted by the Constitution to protect, not to attack, the lives and dignity of citizens and other human beings under the law of the land*", affirmed the Senator, on behalf of the 1300 Members of Parliaments belonging to Parliamentarians for Global Action.

#### REFERENCES

31 March 2005: [PGA Press Release and Commentary on the Adoption of UNSC 1593-  
http://www.iccnw.org/documents/PGA\\_DARref\\_01Apr05.pdf](http://www.iccnw.org/documents/PGA_DARref_01Apr05.pdf)

14 May 2008: [PGA Japan, Justice for Darfur Resolution-http://www.pgaction.org/uploadedfiles/PGA%20Website%2003-2-  
1%20Tokyo%20Resolution%20on%20Darfur.pdf](http://www.pgaction.org/uploadedfiles/PGA%20Website%2003-2-1%20Tokyo%20Resolution%20on%20Darfur.pdf)

4 March 2009: [Media Statement of "Justice for Darfur"-www.justice4darfur.org/](http://www.justice4darfur.org/)

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## About PGA

Parliamentarians for Global Action is a network of more than 1300 members of parliament from 130 countries around the world who in their individual capacity have pledged to mobilize political will in favour of the establishment, effective and complementary operation of an independent ICC. While the main focus of work of the PGA ICC Campaign is on the ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute around the world, PGA also strongly encourages the full cooperation of States and international organizations in enforcing the judicial decisions of the ICC, in full respect for the principle of the presumption of innocence and other norms enshrined in the Rome Statute, including the rights of victims.

PGA is a member of the Steering Committee of the Coalition for the ICC. PGA receives the support of the European Commission (EU) and of the Governments of Belgium, The Netherlands, and Switzerland, as well as core support from Denmark and Sweden.

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