

1) Ukraine General Newswire

December 12, 2006 Tuesday 1:16 PM MSK

Ukraine to become full member of ICC, chairman for justice committee says

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DATELINE: Kyiv December 12

Ukraine wants to become a full member of the **International Criminal Court** (ICC) and plans to iron out some discrepancies in its national legislation that block its admission, chairman for the justice committee Serhiy Kivalov has said.

"A working group to settle the legal mechanisms was created today so that Ukraine could join the Rome Statute, [and] become an ICC member," he said speaking at the 28th Annual Forum on Human Security and the Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the **International Criminal Court** and the Rule of Law in Tokyo.

Kivalov said that Ukraine's parliament recently recognized the famine of 1932-1933 as genocide against the Ukrainian people, but that this could have been done by the **International Criminal Court**, the committee's press service reported on Monday.

During its visit to Japan, the Ukrainian delegation, which included chief magistrates, visited Japan's Ministry of Justice, where the two sides shared experiences in judicial reform.

Kivalov also met with a number of MPs from Japan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, and other forum participants. In a resolution adopted at the conference, the forum urged the world community to step up cooperation with the ICC.

The **International Criminal Court** (ICC) is based on the Rome Statute, which came into effect on June 1, 2002. Today the ICC includes 103 countries. The court tries people accused of the most serious crimes of international concern, namely genocide, crimes against humanity and **war crimes**. **The court's** headquarters are located in The Hague, Netherlands.

2) <http://www.petra.gov.jo/nepras/2006/Dec/06/24000.htm>

JORDAN NEWS

Jordan Elected as Member in the PGA Board of Trustees

/0003/

Tokyo, Dec. 6 (Petra)—Jordan was elected as member in the Parliamentarian for Global Action (PGA) when Lower House Deputy Raed Qaqish was chosen for the the PGA's Board of trustees membership in elections held in Tokyo today with the participation of representatives from 22 countries.

Deputy Raed Qaqish told correspondent of Jordan News Agency in Tokyo that this victory was deemed accomplishment for Jordan. "The fact that all members voted for Jordan's nominee stems from their conviction of the importance of His Majesty's King Abdullah efforts on the international level," he added.

The deputy said Jordan had been the first Arab country to sign and ratify the Rome Charter to form the International Criminal Court.

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), a non-profit, non-partisan international network of elected legislators with over 1300 members in more than 100 countries around the globe, aims to promote peace, democracy, the rule of law, human rights, sustainable development and population issues by informing, convening, and mobilizing parliamentarians to realize these goals.

//Petra//

06/12/2006 14:30:35

3) <http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20061207a9.html>

The Japan Times

The Japan Times

Chief justice of ICC lauds Japan pledge to join tribunal

By SETSUKO KAMIYA

Staff writer

The chief justice of the International Criminal Court said Wednesday in Tokyo that Japan's expected participation in the international tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, will benefit both Japan and the international community.

Set up in July 2002, the ICC is an independent, permanent criminal court that hears cases dealing with genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes committed by individuals.

"It is clear that once Japan is within the system, it will lead other states in Asia to participate in the system," Justice Philippe Kirsch said at the Japan National Press Club in Tokyo. "Also, Japan, within the system, will be in a much better position to influence the shaping and the future of the court."

The court handles cases where the accused is a national of a member state, where the crime was committed in a member state, or other cases referred to it by the U.N. Security Council.

The ICC acts only when the courts of member states are unable or unwilling to investigate or prosecute crimes.

At present, the ICC has 104 members, mostly from Europe and Africa. Many Asian countries have yet to join.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said in October that Japan aims to sign on to the ICC next year.

The court is now investigating four cases: in Congo, Uganda, Central African Republic and Sudan.

The Japan Times: Thursday, Dec. 7, 2006
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4) <http://au.news.yahoo.com//061206/19/11orb.html>

Thursday December 7, 02:57 AM

World court chief welcomes Japan, wants more Asian backing



Photo : AFP

TOKYO (AFP) - The head of the International Criminal Court welcomed Japan's planned accession to the body, hoping it will encourage other countries in Asia, where few states have joined.

Court President Philippe Kirsch said the body, which was strongly opposed by the United States, needed more universal backing.

"Although some regions are very well represented in the system -- in most regions in the world, actually -- Asia is not adequately represented at this stage," the Canadian judge told a news conference in Tokyo.

"So one factor for success in the future will be to expand the scope of jurisdiction of the court as much as possible."

With wide support in Africa, Europe and Latin America, some 100 countries are member parties of the world court, which was established in 2002 in the wake of the genocide trials in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

But the court has far less backing in Asia, where outside Oceania only Afghanistan, Cambodia, East Timor, Mongolia and South Korea are members.

Japan has prepared to join the court next year, with the foreign ministry earmarking a budget for dues in the fiscal year to March 2008. It would be the largest financial contributor, as dues are based on the size of the economy.

Japan had resisted joining the court due to the opposition from the US, its closest ally, and the cost. It would pay 1.98 billion yen (17.2 million dollars) a year if parliament ratifies the Rome Statute that established the court.

"I think Japan's accession would have an encouraging effect on other states who are now considering ratification, particularly in Asia," Kirsch said. "And I think more broadly Japan will certainly have a role in shaping the future of the court."

"After all, it has always been my view," he said, that "the court is destined to become a universal court soon or later."

Former US president Bill Clinton signed the Rome Statute, but President George W. Bush has strongly opposed the court, fearing it could target Americans due to Washington's global role.

The Bush administration retracted the US signature and has sought promises from other countries that they would not hand over Americans to the court, slashing military aid if they refused.

OTHER ARTICLES:

5) <http://www.inform.kz/showarticle.php?lang=eng&id=146608>

Kazakhstan News (N.B. *impossible to cut and paste*)

6) http://news.sl/drwebsite/publish/article_20054257.shtml

Sierra Leone MPs head for Japan's security meeting

By Awareness Times

Dec 1, 2006, 17:21

The Speaker of Parliament, Honourable Justice Edmond Cowan will today, December 1st 2006 be leading a seven man delegation of Sierra Leone Parliamentarians to Japan to attend the 28th Annual Forum of the Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) on "Human Security", which will include the IV session of the Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the International Criminal Court & the Rule of Law.

Speaking exclusively to Awareness Times late yesterday evening, the Speaker of Parliament confirmed the trip and expressed his delight for being chosen to head the Parliamentary delegation to what he described as "this very important gathering of the world's Legislators".

He disclosed Hon. Ibrahim Sorie and Hon. Cecil Hanson have already left for Japan being that they are part of the forums organizing committee.

"I will certainly be making a statement at the forum and this will reflect the interest of Sierra Leone as a state and the people in general," Speaker Cowan said.

The meeting will be held in the Kensei Kinenkan (The Parliamentary Museum) of Japan. This Annual Parliamentary Forum is the principal meeting of the PGA global network of 1300 individual legislators from 112 democratically elected Parliaments and two regional parliamentary assemblies. The governing bodies of the organisation – the Executive Committee and the International Council also convene on the occasion of the Forum, a unique event for development of new initiatives of parliamentary diplomacy in all regions of the world. All democratically elected Parliaments of the world are normally invited to send delegations to the Forum.

The delegation from Sierra Leone will also include Honourable Victor Reider, Honourable Ibrahim Sorie, Honourable Cecil Hanson and Honourable Bami Cheedy.

According to the PGA, Human Security is a fundamental component of a Rules-Based International Order and is a central element of Japan's Foreign Policy. The PGA Annual Forum on Human Security is therefore receiving the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan which believes that the topic of Human Security will help legislators to focus on key features of all of PGA's Programmes, namely, Peace and Democracy, International Law and Human Rights, as well as Sustainable Development and Population.

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7) Mozambican Political Paper (below)

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EM TOKYO, JAPÃO

PARLAMENTARES DO MUNDO INTEIRO DISCUTEM TRIBUNAL PENAL INTERNACIONAL

DECORREU de 4 a 5 de Dezembro corrente na Cidade Japonesa de Tokyo, a 28ª Assembleia Geral do Grupo de Parlamentares para Acção Global (PGA), uma organização mundial que congrega cerca de 1300 parlamentares democraticamente eleitos de mais de 112 países provenientes dos quatro cantos do mundo.

O encontro subordinado ao tema “Segurança Humana” incluiu a IV Sessão da Assembleia Consultiva do sub-Grupo de Parlamentares para o Tribunal Penal Internacional e o Estado de Direito. O Tribunal Penal Internacional foi ratificado por mais de 104 países do mundo inteiro, 57 dos quais tiveram uma participação activa de membros do PGA.

O Forum Anual Parlamentar e o mais alto órgão do PGA e a inclusão do tema “Segurança Humana” nesta magna sessão reflecte a importância deste tema na agenda do PGA pois a segurança humana e considerada pelos membros do PGA como uma componente fundamental de uma Ordem Internacional baseada no respeito das regras mais elementares da convivência humana.

O PGA centra as suas actividades em quatro areas fundamentais: Paz e Democracia, Direito Internacional e Direitos Humanos bem como Desenvolvimento Sustentável e População.

O encontro, teve uma importância particular pois e o único forum global de legisladores que se centra sobre questões ligadas ao Tribunal Penal internacional e a problemática do estado de direito. Entre 2002-2005, a Assembleia Consultiva reuniu-se respectivamente em Ottawa, Canada, Nova York, na Sede das Nações Unidas, e em Wellington, Nova Zelândia, providenciando uma plataforma única para a partilha de experiência entre legisladores do mundo inteiro.

Para além de parlamentares, participam no encontro cientistas políticos e especialistas do mundo inteiro que se interessam pela problemática da justiça internacional e do Tribunal Penal Internacional, sendo a destacar a presença do Presidente do Tribunal Penal Internacional, Phillipe Kirsh, da Presidente da Agência Japonesa para a Cooperação Internacional, a ex-Comissária das Nações Unidas para os Refugiados Sadako Ogata, do sub-secretário das Nações Unidas para o desarmamento para além de Presidentes de cerca de 8 parlamentos de vários continentes entre outros.

O forum discutiu entre outros assuntos a questão da segurança humana no Século XXI, o papel dos parlamentares na promoção da segurança humana, a construção da paz e o estado de direito na perspectiva da segurança humana, paz, desarmamento, desmobilização e integração de ex-combatentes, o papel das Nações Unidas nos processos de paz, a necessidade da assistência humanitária, e reconstrução, a

necessidade da luta contra a impunidade e o caso da relevância das comissões de verdade e reconciliação nacional, e a avaliação do Tribunal Penal Internacional.

Lembre-se que apesar de ter ratificado os Estatutos de Roma no ano 2000, passados seis anos Moçambique ainda não ratificou os estatutos do Tribunal Penal Internacional.

Moçambique faz-se representar pelo deputado Manuel de Araújo. A IV Assembleia *Consultiva teve o apoio Comissão* Europeia e dos Governos da Bélgica, Holanda, Suíça, Dinamarca, Suécia e Japão.....**DZ**