



# Parliamentarians for Global Action

## PGA UN NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2010

### SUMMARY

As we enter into the final stages of the year, the six UN General Assembly Main Committees have all but concluded their work. Attention now shifts to the plenary General Assembly where the text of resolutions agreed at Committee will be adopted on a rolling basis in the coming months.

In the UN Security Council, a number of very important resolutions have been adopted in the past few weeks. Some of these resolutions also have particular interest/relevance to, or have some bearing on, the programme work of PGA – see further below.

### PGA ASP ICC Cooperation – Strategic Consultations

Although not specifically a UN ‘event’ PGA also participated actively in the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Assembly of States Parties to the ICC which took place at UN Headquarters in the second week of December 2010. For more information on this, refer to PGA’s microsite dedicated to these meetings at: [http://www.pgaction.org/Cooperation\\_of\\_States\\_Parties.html](http://www.pgaction.org/Cooperation_of_States_Parties.html)

### SECURITY COUNCIL

#### 1. Security Council Resolution 1959 (2010) – Burundi

This Resolution on Burundi, inter alia, included the following paragraphs:

#### Preambular Section

...*Recognizing* the importance of transitional justice in promoting lasting reconciliation among all the people of Burundi, and *noting with appreciation* the completion of the national consultations on the establishment of the transitional justice mechanisms, in accordance with its resolution 1606 (2005) as well as the Arusha agreements 2000,

*Noting with great concern* the reports of continuing human rights violations, in particular extrajudicial killings and torture, and restrictions on civil liberties, including restrictions on the freedom of expression, association and assembly of opposition parties and civil society organizations,

*Encouraging* the Government of Burundi to protect the civil liberties and to fight impunity, particularly by ensuring that those responsible for incidences of torture, extrajudicial killings and mistreatment of detainees are brought to justice,...

#### Operative Section

...11. *Urges* the Government to investigate reports of human rights violations, to take the necessary steps to prevent further violations and to ensure that those responsible for such violations are brought to justice:...

***PGA and its Members were actively involved in improving the situation in Burundi in 1993-1994 and so this will be of interest to the organization in general. The issue of accountability in general is of interest/relevance to PGA’s International Law and Human Rights Programme.***

## 2. Security Council Resolution 1960 (2010) – Women and Security

On 16<sup>th</sup> December 2010, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1960 (2010) on women and security. It is a very important resolution as it calls upon the Secretary General, for the first time, to draw up lists (similar to Sanction Committee Lists) of those 'credibly suspected' of having committed rape in times of conflict – thus elevating further this particular crime in the global mindset.

Further information on this Resolution can be found at:

UN Votes to Name Alleged Rapists in War

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2010/12/16/world/AP-UN-UN-Sexual-Violence.html?hp>

Security Council steps up fight against sexual violence in conflict

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=37097&Cr=sexual+violence&Cr1=>

The text of the Resolution itself may be found at:

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N10/698/34/PDF/N1069834.pdf?OpenElement>

***This is of particular interest/relevance to PGA Members worldwide in the context of both our ongoing work in this area in the International Law and Human Rights/ICC Campaign, but also vis-à-vis PGA's work on gender empowerment and human security – most recently at the Annual Forum in Istanbul.***

## 3. The situation in Cote D'Ivoire

During the month of December 2010, both the UN Secretary General and the Security Council have made a number of Statements urging restraint in the highly volatile situation in Cote d'Ivoire. At time of writing, the situation in Cote d'Ivoire continues to be highly instable.

Security Council Press Statement on Cote d'Ivoire

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2010/sc10124.doc.htm>

Further UN Security Council Statement

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/world/2010-12/21/c\\_13657305.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/world/2010-12/21/c_13657305.htm)

Cote d'Ivoire - UN chief slams post-election attacks on UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/world/2010-12/22/c\\_13658954.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english2010/world/2010-12/22/c_13658954.htm)

***The sadly worsening situation in Cote d'Ivoire, together with the reaction of the UN and the international community are of particular interest/relevance to PGA. PGA sent a number of Missions to the country, both in the 1990s and, more recently, between 2001 and 2004, seeking peaceful resolutions out of the existing impasses at the time. These PGA Missions also sought to uphold democratic principles, and one took place at the invitation of past CDI President, Mr. Gbagbo himself. PGA's involvement in the CDI also resulted in the country depositing a Notice of Acceptance of Jurisdiction of the ICC, which may prove to be of particular importance in the weeks and months ahead, depending on how events eventually unfold. PGA has written in the past week to Mr. Gbagbo, a member of PGA, urging him to recognize the will of his people and to formally resign. We continue to monitor the situation closely, in particular given its immediate relevance in the context of the work of PGA's International Law & Human Rights Programme.***

Any PGA Member interested in obtaining further information on a particular point of interest referenced below or a copy of a text/resolution or presidential statement referenced in this Newsletter, may do so by contacting the PGA Secretariat at PGA Headquarters in New York ([peter.barcroft@pgaction.org](mailto:peter.barcroft@pgaction.org))