

Asian Delegation for the International Criminal Court

Kathmandu, Nepal

25-27 August 2006

Asian Delegation calls for Immediate Accession to the ICC Treaty

PRESS STATEMENT

Members of the Asian Delegation for the International Criminal Court (ICC) conducted a seminar in Kathmandu, and had encouraging lobby meetings with various government officials, including the Prime Minister of Nepal from 25 to 27 August 2006. The purpose of the visit is to support the resolution passed by Nepal's parliament directing government to accede to the Rome Statute for the International Criminal Court.

They also sought to dialogue with political leaders, Human Rights Defenders, lawyers and other stake holders to gain support for the national effort to make Nepal the 101st State Party to the ICC.

The delegation met with Prime Minister Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala at his residence in Kathmandu on the morning of 26 August 2006. The delegation has been assured that the Nepal Government is firmly committed to accede to the ICC Treaty, given that it has already been unanimously directed by the House of Representatives.

The delegation met with the Speaker of the House of Representatives Mr. Subash Nembwang on 27 August 2006, who vowed to follow up with the Government until the directive is fully complied with. Members of the delegation highly appreciated the efforts of the House to push forward the proposal to accede to the ICC Treaty; likewise the interest and commitments of the parliamentarians to pursue this agenda has encouraged wider support for the ICC.

In a meeting with the delegation on 25 August 2006, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. KP Sharma Oli reiterated his commitment made in Parliament on July 25 2006 to accede to the Treaty and assured the delegation that the process of accession would be completed in no time.

In separate meetings with the delegation, the Former Prime Minister and President of Nepali Congress (Democratic) Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba, and CPN(UML) General Secretary Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal assured Nepal's accession to the ICC Treaty.

At the Experts' Meeting and Delegation on the ICC organized by FORUM-ASIA and INSEC on 26 August 2006, the delegation discussed with political leaders, parliamentarians including Chief Whips, Government officials, human rights activists, law professionals, journalists, civil society members as well as representatives of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Committee of

the Red Cross. The meeting clarified state obligations of Nepal pertaining to the accession to the ICC treaty and its implementation.

The delegation considers that immediate accession to the ICC Treaty will facilitate peace and justice and provide opportunities to consolidate rule of law and democracy in Nepal. The accession will facilitate streamlining of domestic laws according to international standards and set a positive example for the entire region.


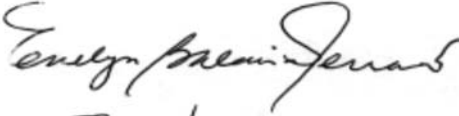
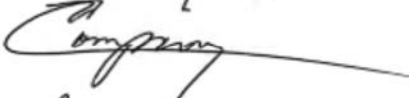

The delegation expresses its gratitude to the Prime Minister, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, former Prime Minister and President of NC-D and General Secretary of CPN-UML for their commitment towards Nepal's accession and support for the ICC.

The delegation salutes the Nepali people and its human rights defenders for restoring democracy and strengthening the campaign on the ICC which will help end impunity and ensure justice for the people of Nepal.

In Solidarity,

Dr. Ahmed Ziauddin, Asian Network for the ICC (ANICC), Belgium
Ms. Evelyn Balais Serrano, Coalition for the ICC-Asia (CICC-Asia), Philippines
Ms. Niza Concepcion, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA), Thailand
Dr. Nazrul Islam, Odhikar-Bangladesh
Ms. Katherine Aylwin, Odhikar-Bangladesh
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27 August 2006
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