

## **Gen. Prosecutor Moreno Ocampo and other important personalities in major conference in Berlin on the need to eradicate impunity in Europe**

Strasbourg, 17.03.2009 – Council of Europe parliamentarians and leading human rights figures from around the world – including from international courts, NGOs, law firms and universities – will gather at the German Bundestag in Berlin on Monday 23 March for a major conference on “The state of human rights in Europe: the need to eradicate impunity”.

Organised by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), in co-operation with the Bundestag’s Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid, the conference will focus on topics such as states’ failure to bring to justice the perpetrators of torture, disappearances and killings, impunity for organised crime and the spread of government corruption.

Participants will also ask whether – in certain circumstances – impunity is being extended to international actors such as the UN or NATO.

“When human rights violators believe they will never be caught and punished, society is in very deep trouble,” said the Chair of the Bundestag’s Human Rights Committee Herta Däubler-Gmelin (Germany, SOC), who is preparing a PACE report on impunity based on the conclusions of the conference. “We will be looking hard at the many ways justice is being avoided in Europe – and what can be done to stop it happening.”

The conference will be opened by Herta Däubler-Gmelin, Chair of both organizing committees, and will feature interventions, among others, from the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court Luis Moreno-Ocampo, former Romanian Justice Minister Monica Macovei and PACE’s rapporteur on secret detentions Dick Marty (Switzerland, ALDE).

[Link to the draft programme](#)

*The conference, which is open to the press, takes place from 9am to 5.30pm in Hearing Room 3.101 of the German Bundestag, Marie-Elisabeth-Lüders Building, Adele-Schreiber-Krieger Strasse 1, 10117 Berlin. During lunch time there will be opportunity of press talks or short interviews. Journalists wishing to attend are invited to seek accreditation on the [website of the Bundestag’s Press Division](#).*

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